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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

Jacobsburg Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Boulton Gun Manufactory, Jacobsburg State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bushkill Township

CITY, TOWN

3 mi. ne. of Nazareth

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pa.

VICINITY OF

CODE

42

COUNTY

Northampton

15

CODE

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input 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

Commonwealth of Pa.

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Environmental Resources

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pa.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Northampton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Ferry Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Pa.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1941

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTIVE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 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 Jacobsburg Historic District included about 500 acres of land and consists of three distinct areas: the Jacobsburg, Benade, and Boulton tracts. The Jacobsburg Tract is almost entirely in ruins; it once was the center of a variety of industrial pursuits in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Benade tract contains two standing former dwellings, and ruins of several industrial buildings. The Boulton tract includes the most important of the standing structures, Boulton and the Henry Homestead. In all, the district contains 46 sites, of which 12 remain standing.

The boundaries of the proposed district are as follows: to the north and east, the boundary coincides with the Jacobsburg State Park boundary. On the west, the line runs approximately north-south for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to the west of LR 48071; then turns southeastward past the southeast park boundary to include the Boulton complex.

Jacobsburg was originally settled in 1740. At one point a foundry, tannery, gristmill, hotel, iron furnace, gun factory, and sawmill all operated in the town. The gun factory dates from the first decade of the 19th century. The forge from 1808 and a blast furnace from 1826.

The Jacobsburg Tract once contained 20 structures, all of which are now in various states of deterioration. None of the original buildings are standing; foundations and rubble areas remain. These remains range in degree of deterioration from piles of unidentifiable stones to readily recognizable walls and foundations. The features of the mill races are prominent.

The Benade tract consisted mostly of farm settlements, but also had a foundry, grist mill, and sawmill, powered by Bushkill Creek. Two stone houses are the only intact buildings which remain. Each is a two-story fieldstone building, with slate roof. Window frames are empty and the buildings themselves appear empty. Restoration and preservation of the Benade House is being planned by the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

The Boulton tract encompasses several standing structures and ruins of architectural importance to the district. Boulton, built by John Joseph Henry in 1832, is a Federal style brick house of generous scale. Probably because it has a side hall plan, and a narrower rear wing, it was traditionally considered to have been derived from the Philadelphia row house. Certainly the design and detail is under strong Philadelphia influence, although the scale is much larger than that of any row house. The flat planes of the brick walls and lintels, the moulding profiles of shutters and doors and the elliptical fan-light are unmistakably Federal, but there is no characteristic freedom in design of details.

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Description:

The house is two stories high, with gable roof running parallel to the front wall. A dining room with projecting bay window was added to the rear in 1884, with typical fireplace and trim. Otherwise no changes of significance have been added to the 1832 portion.

Outbuildings include a brick smoke house, wash house with a cool cellar contemporary with the main house, and a frame barn. The trees and plantings in the lawns around the building are old and of unusual beauty.

Also on the Boulton tract is a stone factory workers' house, about 100 yards northeast of the main house. Built of local fieldstone with painted wood trim, the house is in the vernacular stone farmhouse tradition, and probably dates from the first decade of the 19th century. Its interior has been modernized.

Another 1½ story worker's house stand on the northeast side of Bushkill Creek. Although it is now covered with wooden clapboard, it probably has a timber frame and was originally half-timbered. Its interior has also been renovated to accommodate present day residents.

Schoolhouse; The one-room schoolhouse on the Boulton property is a simple frame structure with gabled hip roof. A cupola rests on the gable above the main entranceway. The building is presently in "usable" but not good condition.

Henry Homestead; Across LR 48080 from Boulton

The Henry Homestead is a two-story house, covered with clapboard. The roof line extends out over the front of the house to become the roof of a veranda, which also runs the length of the house. First-story windows have panelled shutters, some of which are replicas of the original shutters. The house was originally a two-room one-story log cabin, built ca. 1790. In 1812, William Henry III added a parlor, porch, and foyer to the west end of the cabin. A second story and basement kitchen/dining room were also added at this time. In 1890, two windows were converted to projecting bay windows, and a rear kitchen was added. It is planned to make the homestead a house for the park superintendent.

A two-story frame barn, clapboard carriage house, and clapboard stable complete the Homestead complex.

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Description:

At present there are 12 buildings in the three historic areas. There are five modern buildings along Belfast Road (See following description and map). All other houses outside the historic areas have been demolished for park development. The following five buildings can be considered as intrusions.

1.) Amy Cornell; 435 Belfast Road.

Two story brick and frame house, built circa 1960, 50' x 25' with attached garage. Pretentious two story portico two stories high along front. This house is planned to be retained for the Park Superintendent's residence.

2.) Fehr, Edgar; 438 Belfast Road.

Two story frame house, built circa 1920, 25' x 35'. aluminum siding, wood porch. Shown to be demolished in Park development plans.

3.) Bowers, Willard; 442 Belfast Road

One story frame house, built circa 1920, 25' x 35', asbestos shingle siding. Shown to be demolished in Park development plans.

4.) Montz; 446 Belfast Road.

One story frame house, built circa 1920, 25' x 35', asbestos shingle siding. Shown to be demolished in Park development plans.

5.) Helstorm; 453 Belfast Road.

One story frame house, built circa 1870, remodelled circa 1950, 25' x 50', aluminum siding, wood porch. Small frame barn, chicken house and corn crib. Shown to be demolished; barn is planned to be retained for park storage.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1740 - early 1900's BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacobsburg Historic District has significance as an archaeological site documenting the history of industry; and The Boulton House is a good example of Federal architecture as adapted in this locality.

Both the Jacobsburg and Benade tracts contain promising archaeological sites. A wide variety of industries was conducted here, making the area ideal in terms of uncovering a representative sampling of early 19th century industry and industrial life. The Jacobsburg settlement was also the first self-sufficient colonial settlement which was not founded by religious sectarians. Its facilities, in addition to the usual food and shelter, included a grocery store, post office, blacksmith shop, pharmacist, tannery, and cooperage. The Jacobsburg Hotel served as a way-station for passengers traveling between Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre.

A particular industry, that of gun-making, and a single family, the Henry's, have been associated with the area for many years. William Henry II, son of the Lancaster gunmaker who was Armorer for the Continental Army, came to Nazareth and built a gun factory around 1792. To supply wrought iron for gun manufacturing, he erected at Jacobsburg the first wrought iron furnace in the Bethlehem area. His son, William Henry III, also a gun-maker at Boulton became an important inventor and pioneer in iron-making at Oxford Furnace (N. J.) and a founder of the Lackawanna Iron Works in Scranton.

The gun factory employed a maximum of 100 persons. Henry rifles were used in the war of 1812 and many were sold to fur trading companies such as that of John Jacob Astor. The factory continued in the manufacture and sale of guns and parts throughout the Civil War and until the early 20th century. The Henry papers include descriptions of industrial and fabricating advances as well as improvement to the weapons themselves. The availability of guns with rifled barrels and of men who could use them had an important effect on the political, economic, and military history of the U. S.

Boulton's very considerable significance depends on historic, aesthetic, and specifically architectural values.

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Reasons for the Economic Decline of the Jacobsburg Area:

The town of Jacobsburg grew around an Inn built about 1785, where the turnpike from Bethlehem and Nazareth to Wind Gap and the Wyoming Valley crossed the Bushkill Creek. The Inn was a stop for the stagecoach on this route. After the Easton and Wilkes-Barre Turnpike was completed in 1815, traffic on the old pike was much reduced, and the canals and railroads which followed the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers reduced it further to that of a country road.

The charcoal iron blast furnace at Jacobsburg was never successful. Built in 1825, it was designed without a hot blast, and could not compete with the anthracite and coke furnaces that were made operable in the middle of the century. There was no good local source of iron ore, which was hauled in wagons from Mount Bethel Township or even from the Pequest Valley in New Jersey. Charcoal grew more expensive as the nearby forest was cut. The tannery which replaced it was a country industry using the water and water power of the creek.

The gun manufacture itself, while it lasted longer than the Jacobsburg industries, never used standard replaceable components, and was essentially an 18th century industry. The locks, for example, were filed out of wrought iron and fitted together individually by "filers" working at home on a piecework basis.

Jacosburg's industrial resources were good water power and a high level of traditional German craftsmanship. The value of both were eroded by the industrial revolution, and by 1900 the town had disappeared.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kaufman, Henry J., The Pennsylvania Kentucky Rifle.
 Dillin, Capt. John C. W., The Kentucky Rifle.
 Business and personal papers of the Henry Family - microfilm
 Eleuthrian Mills Historical Library, Wilmington, Del.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 300 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

SE A	1 8	4 76 0 00	4 5 13 2 00	SW B	1 8	4 7 4 6 00	4 5 13 1 9 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
NW C	1 8	4 7 4 5 7 0	4 5 1 5 7 1 0	NE D	1 8	4 7 6 0 0 0	4 5 1 5 6 9 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of the district where the Metropolitan Edison Company transmission lines cross new Rt. 115 and proceeding southwest along the southern boundary of the Power Company right-of-way for 475 feet; thence in a northwest direction for 825 feet to the south edge of a private road; thence due west along the south side of the road for 2150 feet; thence due south for 375 feet; thence due west for 825 to the west side of Pa. L.R. 48071; thence due south for 2000 feet to a point along the 510' contour line; thence southeast for 6768 feet; thence northeast for 1500 feet; thence northeast for 2500

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

Joseph DiGerlando, Vice President

ORGANIZATION

Jacobshurg Historical Society

DATE

June 5, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Box 345 (post office)

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Nazareth

STATE

Pa.

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

Executive Director

TITLE

Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE

6/25/75

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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
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Boundary Description:

The proposed boundaries for the district are somewhat arbitrary. The four lane highway forms a distinct visual and physical boundary on the eastern edge. The remaining boundaries are largely those of the southeastern third of Jacobsburg State Park. Except for the small southwestern dogleg encompassing the Boulton Mansion, the Park boundaries enclose the major areas of industrial activity and settlement. Any boundary for this district would be artificial in nature. The State Park boundaries were chosen as the most logical and the most defensible.

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Additional Information on the Benade Tract

Two stone buildings, the house and springhouse, remain under roof and were tenanted until around 1970. They are reasonably sound structurally, but window and door frames have been removed by vandals, and they are deteriorating rapidly. They were probably built around 1800, perhaps by William Henry II after his purchase of the land in 1808.

There are many unidentified ruins near the house. Mentioned in the inventory of a Sheriff's Sale in 1845 are improvements including a large frame forge, a large two story stone house (presumably that mentioned above) five one story stone or log houses, office, coal house, blacksmith shop, frame store house, a large frame barn, five stables, two apple orchards, and a spring. There are visible ruins of a dam and large slag piles.

The Benade Tract was a part of a large property along the Bushkill Creek which included all the historic districts in this nomination, purchased by William Henry II in 1808 and divided between his heirs after his death in 1821. This 135 acre farm was inherited by Maria Henry Benade, daughter of William Henry II. She was the wife of Andrew Benade (1769-1859), Bishop of the Moravian Church from 1822-1848. It is doubtful that Benade lived on the property himself until after his retirement in 1848.

The industrial establishment on the Benade property was built and run by the sons of William Henry II in conjunction with the gun manufacture at Boulton, and after 1824 by Matthew S. Henry in connection with his furnace at Jacobsburg, about one-half mile further up Bushkill Creek.

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JACOBSEBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT - Northampton County

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Property Owners:

William Forry, Director
Bureau of State Parks
Environmental Resources
Room B-11
Evangelical Press Building
Third and Reily Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Miss Mary Henry Stites
402 Henry Road
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

