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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 ~~The Little Stone House Museum~~

Jacob Nicholas House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

458 Ferry Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Easton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15

STATE

Pennsylvania

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

42

COUNTY

Northampton

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Easton

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall - Ferry Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Northampton County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

7th and Walnut Streets

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Town plan of Easton, drawn by William Parsons, Surveyor General for
William Penn & later surveys

DATE

May 1750

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Northampton County Court House - Archives

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is pre-revolutionary, ca. 1750, stone bank house 2½ stories high, 3 bays wide on the north (main) facade. The house is built into an incline so that the southern side (rear) is one-half story high with ground entrance into the second story. The floorplan is square with the entrance in the western bay. The entrance hallway has a stairwell on the west wall with one room opening to the east with a large walk-in fireplace and side oven on the east wall. The ground floor room is 12'9" deep, 7'6" of the depth is a root cellar and bedrock. The second story, the main floor, is the full depth through to the south, with two rooms east of the hallway; one to the north and one to the south. The attic is one room and has one small window in each gable end. The stone work is regularly coursed with different sized stones on the north main facade, while the stone on the other exterior walls are randomly placed.

The kitchen room at the ground level, contains the original chair rail and baseboards intact. Following an archeological dig, we have determined that there was a brick floor in the stair-hall and keeping room. Fragments of old brick with no evidence of pockets for floor joists seem to verify this supposition. The original deteriorated plaster and oak lathe remain at this time.

In the stair-hall, the original chair rails and baseboards remain. The stair-rail, square newel and balusters are also original.

The second floor (main) contains a straight through enclosed stair-hall with a south doorway at ground level. All flooring is random width throughout. To the east is a doorway to the master bedroom which contains a fine built-in gable fireplace and cupboards. All the original chair rails and baseboards remain here. To the south of the master bedroom is a smaller secondary bedroom with all original chair rails, baseboards, and random width floors.

In the attic there is a straight down stair to the second floor at the northwest side of the house. There are east and west half-size gable windows. The original pine random floors and the original mortis and tenon splayed rafters with no tie-beams remain.

The house contained a rear frame clapboard structure in line with the west gable end of the main house with a gabled roof running north to south. We have documented evidence that this was added about 1840. The structure size was approximately 12' x 12' with a 4' x 3' fireplace, the foundation of which still remains. The structure had an east and west door and east and west windows with 9/6 8" x 10" windows with the doors being closer to the house. The stone and brick foundation still remain for this added structure.

The house contained much original hardware; butt hinges with hand-forged bean-cusp thumb latches. It also contained, at the west gable end in the west second floor stair-hall, a false wall added in mid 1800's;

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Description:

which, when removed, revealed extremely early wallpaper with a vivid border. All the wood is pine or oak; the stone of the structure is limestone laid up with a mortar of clay and lime. The archeological dig of the first floor revealed artifacts of the period and earlier.

The archeological dig was done now out of necessity, because of severe moisture problems ^{on} the ground floor inside the house. We only excavated ten inches beneath the finished floor elevation and six inches in the root cellar; so that some artifacts are left for future generations to dig.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

ca. 1750

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is one of half a dozen buildings that remain in the city of Easton from the revolutionary era (ca. 1750). It is a fine stone building in unaltered but deteriorated, condition with 90% of the original structure intact. It is best characterized as typical of the 18th century small dwelling of three bays with an identifiable main (north) or street facade. The bank house is characteristic of Pennsylvania architecture as the building takes its shape from the hilly topography.

Jacob Nicholas, a Durham boat captain, lived in the house with his wife, Margaret, one son, and two daughters. Charles, the son, remained in the home for several years following the death of his father in 1832. During this period, the largest fleet of Durham boats in the state was based in Easton and was used to transport trade goods to Philadelphia.

Durham boats were useful in river trade because of their shallow draft. Nevertheless, these boats had the capacity to haul heavy cargo. They held as much as sixty barrels of whiskey or one hundred barrels of flour.

These boats gained prominence when General George Washington Commandeered a fleet of Durhams to evacuate his troops following the Battle of Trenton. One Durham could carry a whole regiment.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A History of 458 Fer Street", pamphlet by Leonard B. Semi, 1974

"A Frontier Village" by A.D. Chidsey, Jr., 1966; E. W. Schlechter, Allentown Pennsylvania.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,8,2	0,0,0	4,5	0,4	0,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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 Mrs. Don M. Greek-Pres.
Mrs. Paul R. Harak

Robert N. Butlow-Architect
Vance Packard-on site visit

ORGANIZATION

The Little Stone House Museum Association

DATE

June 22, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

611 Cattell Street

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

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

Executive Director
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

8/9/76

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:

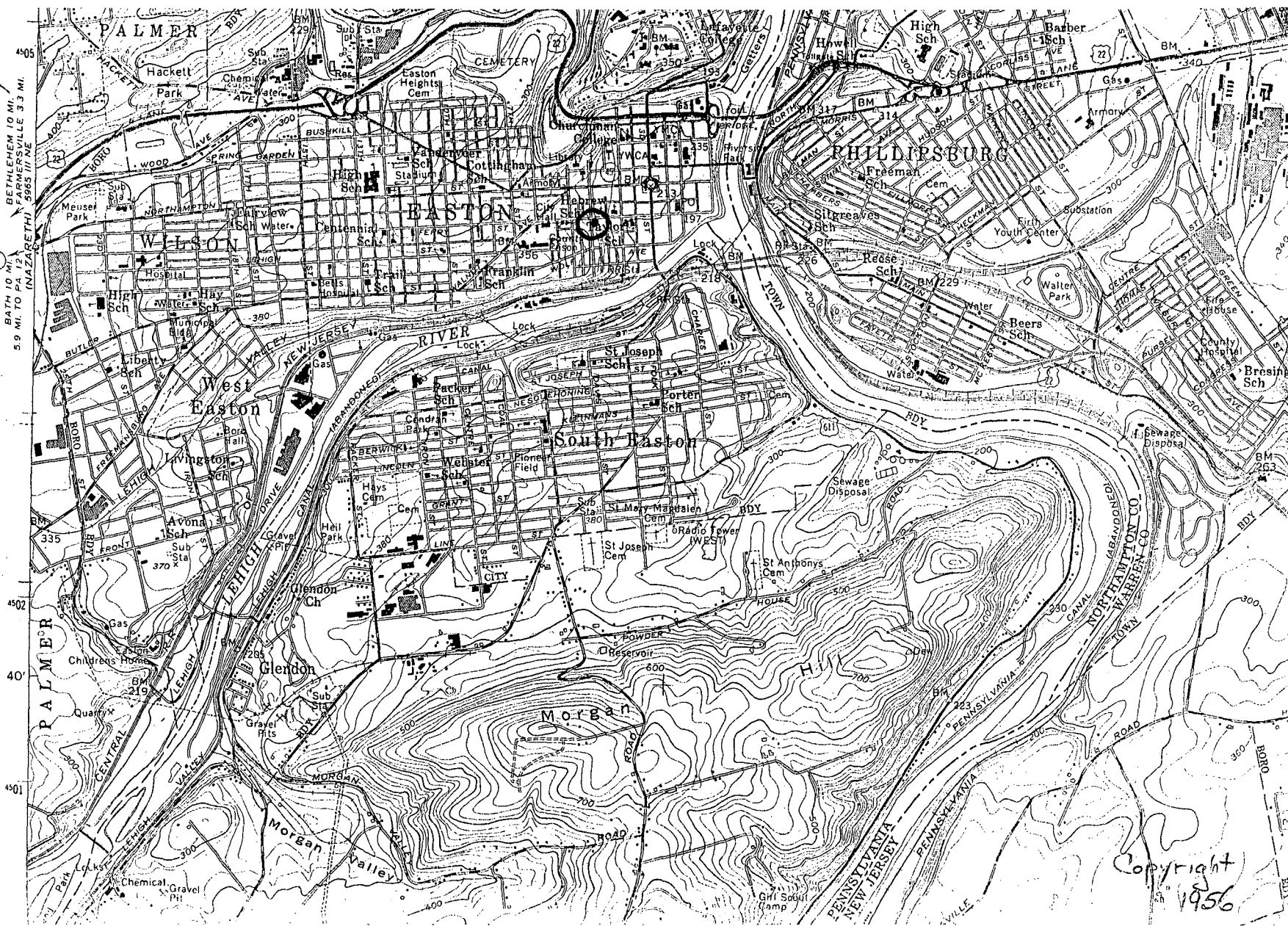
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Easton Quadrangle
NJ - Pa.

NW/4 Easton 15' Quadrangle
1N407.5 - W1507.5/7.5

VII Geographical Data



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1956