



## 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 Jacob Mixsell House is a 2 1/2 story brick structure of late Federal architectural style. Situated on the south-west corner of Fourth and Ferry Streets in downtown Easton, the land was purchased by Jacob Mixsell from John Penn the Younger, with the original land deed preserved by the Historical Society. The home was built in 1833, and a later rear addition added circa 1850 to house the main floor kitchen and two small second floor rooms. The house is in excellent condition with original floors, walls, marble fireplaces, and molded trimmings. The only extensive remodeling has been to add electricity for lighting and plumbing to the rear addition.

The front entrance door is located off center, to the southern side of the main facade and has two windows on its other side. There are three second floor windows directly above the main floor openings, and two third floor windows on either side of the second floor middle window. Each window has a plain lintel heading the window and side door. The main entrance way in the front has a classic entablature head while the recessed door is surrounded by transom panels on three sides. The shutters of the first floor are paneled while the second floor are louvered. The roof trim is not decorated and has plain projecting eaves and frieze.

On the northern side there are fourteen windows and a side door near the rear. Two regular size windows face west along with a third floor dormer and a rear exit door from the kitchen. The southern side of the house has no openings and is annexed to the building next door, housing the Society's library.

The layout of the home is asymmetrical with a long hall running halfway through the house from which rooms and stair cases make their opening. The rooms added in the later addition open from the rooms to which they are annexed. The main staircase and well extend to the third floor which contains two rooms in the front of the house. There is no third floor in the rear portion.

There are five fireplaces with marble mantels believed to be from King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and a brick walk-in fireplace in the kitchen. There are two chimneys recessed in the northern walls, and one chimney is centrally located in the rear portion of the home on the western wall of the dining room where the addition was annexed. There is a chimney for the kitchen recessed in the west wall of the room.

The roof on the front portion of the house is of slate, to the rear it is of pitch. There is a dry cellar under the original portion of the house, none under the annex.

Adjacent to the Society's Headquarters is a rare specimen of unusual cast iron fence. Known as a "grapevine fence" it was presented to the Society in 1937. Cast in 1879, the fence was found near Danielsville, Pennsylvania on land originally owned by the Berlin family.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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** 1833, 1850      **Builder/Architect** Jacob Mixsell

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Jacob Mixsell was a prominent citizen and contractor-builder in early 19th century Easton. His well-built, stylish house is reflective of the style and period. Easton has many such well-preserved early residences. The Mixsell house is interesting for its actual construction by its owner and inhabitant. The Mixsell family were important in the construction industry of early Easton.

His father, Phillip, laid the masonry of the German Reformed Church (now the First United Church of Christ) of Easton in 1775-76. The church served as a military hospital during the Revolution and as a site for the Indian peace treaty in 1777.

Jacob built his house in 1833 in the Federal style of architecture and died there in 1841. His son Charles W., a merchant, and his wife, Mary Kieper, moved in and raised their children there. They had three daughters and a son, some of which were born in this house. The daughters inherited the home after their parents death in 1875.

The oldest daughter, Susan P., married Colonel Charles Augustus Wikoff of Easton in this house. As a career soldier, he used his wife's parental home as his residence when not on duty elsewhere. Colonel Wikoff served in the Civil War and continued in service until his death at San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898. As acting Brigidar General, Colonel Wikoff was the highest ranking American soldier killed during the Spanish-American War. The funeral service for Colonel Wikoff was held in the Mixsell home and was followed by a large military funeral procession leading to the Easton Cemetery for burial.

In 1927, Mary Mixsell, last remaining child, willed the Mixsell home to the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society. Today it is used as the museum for the County with exhibits on local history.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .14

Quadrangle name Easton, Pa.-N.J.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	4	8	2	2	2	0	4	5	0	3	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot #6 starting at SW corner of S. Fourth St. and Ferry St. Moving south along west side of N. 4th St. for 56.42 ft. then west for 110 ft., then north for 56.27 ft., then east along south side of Ferry St. to starting point.

### 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 Lance Metz and Terressa L. Price

organization Northampton County Historical Society date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 101 S. Fourth St. telephone 215-253-1222

city or town Easton state Pennsylvania 18042

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

Page #?

What to See in Pennsylvania, compiled by A. H. Carstens, 1965.

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Books Published by the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society

Lehigh Valley the Unsuspected, Richmond E. Myers, 1972.

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Bethlehem Steele Corporation - A History from origin to World

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A History of Italian Immigration to the Easton Area, Richard D. Grifo

The Courthouse and Other Northampton County History -

The Old Court House - A. D. Chidsey

The Easton Flag - H. F. Marx

Northampton County's Part in the Revolution -

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Presentation of the Marker at the site of the

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The Newcomers to Easton 150 Years Ago -

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The History with Reminiscences of Early Taverns and Inns of Easton -

Floyd S. Bixler

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Northampton County and the Pennsylvania Germans in the Ratifica-  
tion of the Federal Constitution - Henry J. Steele

The Role of the 153rd Regiment. Pa. Vol. Infantry in the Civil War,  
1862-1863 - Edwin B. Coddington

The Upper Places (Nazareth, Gnadenthal, and Christian's Spring)-

Elizabeth F. Myers

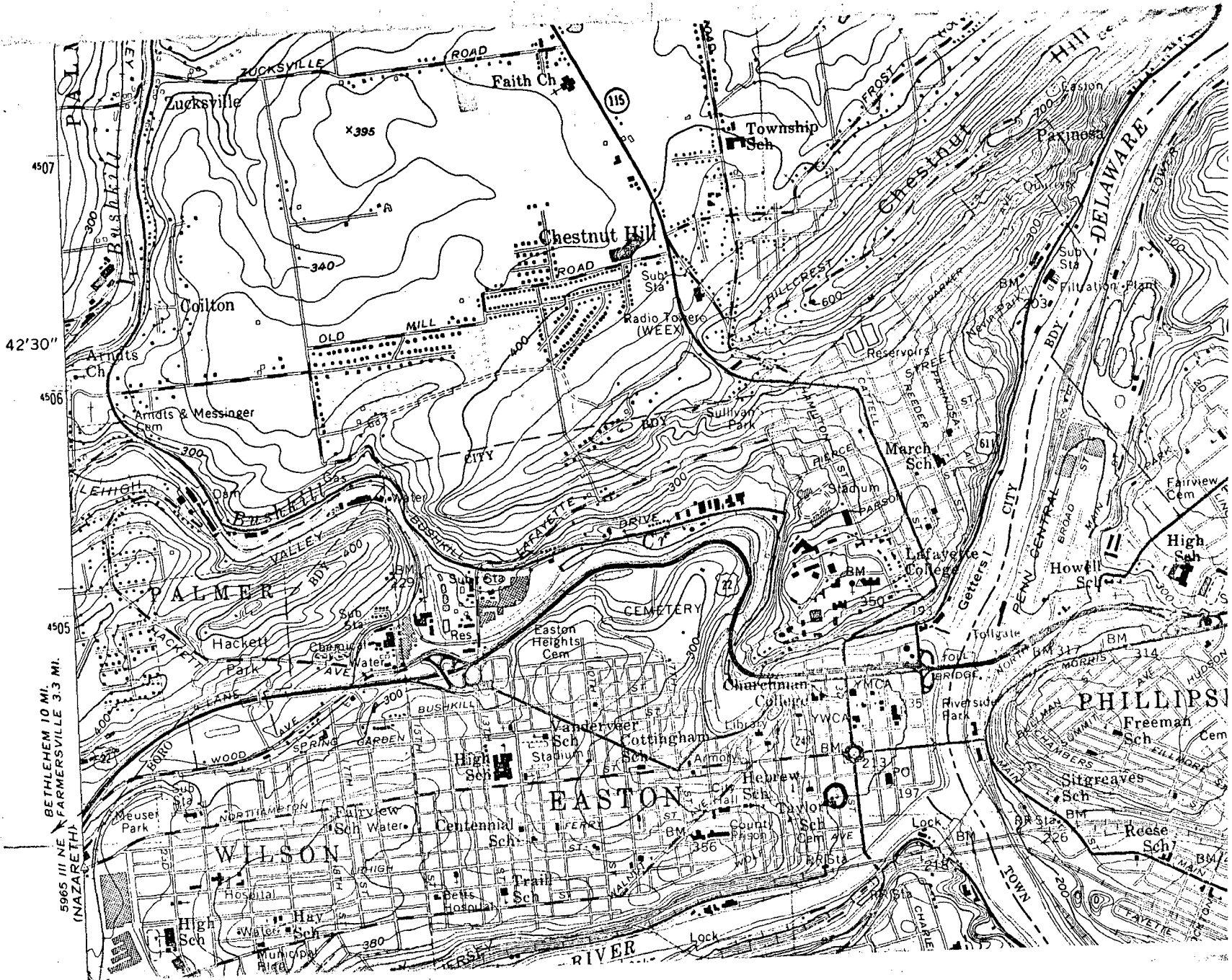
Checklist of Imprints of the German Press of Northampton County,  
1766-1905 - Alfred L. Shoemaker

Whence Came Our Place Names - David B. Skillman

Map - The Forks of the Delaware in Pennsylvania, 1681-1783 -

A. D. Chidsey

Jacob Mixsell House  
Northampton County  
Zone 18 E482220 N4503100



5965 III NE  
(NAZARETH)  
BETHLEHEM 10 MI.  
FARMERSVILLE 3.3 MI.