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United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Daniel Steckel House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 207 West Northampton Street not for publication

city, town Bath vicinity of congressional district 15

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Northampton code 095

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 John W. and Carol K. Stirling

street & number 207 West Northampton Street

city, town Bath vicinity of state Pennsylvania 18014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number 7th & Walnut Streets

city, town Easton state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 8/13/80 federal state county local

depository for survey records PHMC

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Daniel Steckel's Home is a two and one half story Federal style stone structure, the front is coursed ashlar and the remainder of the building is rubble stone. The primary construction material is native limestone and chestnut timber with an early Nineteenth Century brick addition housing a brick walk-in fireplace with bake oven and a frame addition added between 1885 and 1918 (dates confirmed by two pictures in the owner's possession), both these additions located on the north side. The building consists of a basement, first floor, second floor and an attic.

The Northampton Street Elevation on the first floor has four symmetrically placed windows with a centrally located door. The windows are 1 over 1 lights, circa 1920 replacements of the original 8" x 10" 12 over 12 lights. The window frames and sills are all original with the exception of the box-like additions on the sides to accommodate weights. Five of the three panel shutters are original, the other three are 1978 reproductions. Two of the shutter holdbacks are original taken from an intact window frame found in the attic, which was removed from the north side of the house when a doorway was put in for access to the second floor of the rear frame addition. The other three pairs of shutter holdbacks are 1978 reproductions. The porch was added after 1885 and at a future date we hope to remove it since it obscures the fine workmanship of the Federal pediment surrounds of the front door. The six panel door, its hardware, and the pedimented surrounds are all original. However, the fanlight was replaced with one pane of glass early in the Twentieth Century and the brass doorknocker was added in 1978. The second floor contains five windows symmetrically placed over the first floor openings. The two 1 over 1 light windows are the same as the ones previously described. The two 8" x 10" 12 over 12 light windows on the left are wood reproductions of the originals glazed with old glass and installed in Oct. 1979. The second window from the right is the same but glazed with new glass and installed in May 1978. The pintals are intact in all window frames. But only one pair of the original louvered shutters remains. The cornice is all original fabric with beautiful detailing obscured partially by the gutter. A sketch of the cornice follows:

The pitched roof retains its original lines and height. The first roofing material was slate, remnants of which can be found in the attic. Currently it is covered with modern shingles. There are two end-wall chimneys each servicing three fireplaces. They appear to be the original brick chimneys, but are in poor condition.

The Chestnut Street elevation on the first floor has two symmetrically placed windows in the main structure. These 1 over 1 light windows are of the same type and condition as those at the Northampton Street Elevation. The second floor contains two 1 over 1 windows of the same type symmetrically placed over the first floor openings. The attic contains two symmetrically placed 6 over 3 windows which have 8" x 10" lights set in the original Nineteenth Century sashes. Some original glass remains in these windows. Inset barge boards are present in the gable end. A circular date stone once existed in the gable end, but is no longer there. The kitchen ell has a crawl space, first floor and second floor. The first

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floor has one door and one window nonsymmetrically placed. The 1 over 1 light window is of the same type and condition as described above. The door surrounds are original to the house, however, the glass and paneled door and the rectangular transom are late Nineteenth Century replacements. The small side porch was probably added the same time as the front porch. The second floor has two 1 over 1 light windows placed over the first floor openings similar to those described above. The vertical extension of wooden siding shows the roof line was raised, prior to 1885 from our picture. The roof over the kitchen ell is a shed roof.

The North Elevation of the kitchen ell and adjacent early Nineteenth Century brick addition is concealed by a psuedo stone facade. The remainder of the North Elevation is obscured by the late Nineteenth Century frame attachment.

The West Elevation is concealed on the first floor by a cinderblock garage added circa 1965. The rest of the West Elevation mirrors the main structure of the Chestnut Street Elevation, with the exception that the West Elevation has a date stone which appears to be blank.

In the interior the chief distinction is that more than 85% of the original fabric is intact. The interior also exhibits fine Federal trim which is evident from a detailed examination of the structure, first noted at the entrance with its fine pedimented surround and extends into the interior with its chair rails, six panel doors, door molding, stairway and banister. The flooring throughout the house is the original, the second floor having random width planks and the first floor with regular 5" width planks showing the family's prosperity. The walls retain their original plaster over lath and are in relatively good condition. The only original wood trim missing is the chair rail in three first floor rooms; dining room, living room and library. An unusual feature of the house is the corner placement of six of the fireplaces, all of which retain their original Federal mantals and trim. The second floor retains nearly all of its original woodwork and room placement mirrors the lower elevation, details of which can be gathered from an examination of the blueprints. In the kitchen ell remnants of the original deep hearth fireplace are evident from the floorboards, but the Federal trim and features were removed when the structure was modified in the mid-Nineteenth Century. The stone base of the fireplace is visible from the crawl space under the kitchen ell.

In summary the entire structure is in good condition and contains a large percentage of its original material.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1803 **Builder/Architect** Daniel Steckel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Daniel Steckel House is significant for both its architecture and the role that its builder and his descendants played in the early history and later development of the Borough of Bath and surrounding area of Northampton County. It is probably the finest remaining Federal style structure in the borough and surrounding area, and reflects the great role that the Steckels played in the evolution of this moderate-sized town.

The Daniel Steckel House is significant in architecture since many of the remaining Federal and late Georgian buildings in the Bath area have been drastically altered during the last 25 years. This style of architecture which was once so common in Northampton and nearby Lehigh County today is rapidly vanishing under the onslaught of both suburban and commercial development. Built in 1803 as a showplace for the developing settlement of Bath, the Daniel Steckel House has survived almost unscathed since that time.

Daniel Steckel, the fourth son of Peter Steckel, was born Sept. 1, 1767 in the family homestead now known as the Troxell-Steckel House in Egypt, Pennsylvania. Peter Steckel was one of the most liberal contributors to his church and one of the most progressive farmers of the vicinity, having gone to considerable expense constructing an Archimedes' screw to water the higher ground on his farm. Daniel Steckel following the fine example set by his father, married and purchased from his father-in-law Jessie Jones, 56 acres and 57 perches of farmland and a pre-revolutionary tannery in what is now Bath. He conducted the tanning business very successfully for many years, together with the management of his agricultural interests. There was practically no local market for leather, so Daniel was compelled to market his products in Philadelphia and New York City, where the original John Jacob Astor and the Lorillards were keen competitors for his goods. A short distance from the tannery he built a "stone mansion" at the intersection of two of the most widely traveled roads in the upper Lehigh Valley region.

In 1810 Bath was founded and in 1816 Captain James Ralston surveyed and laid out the village of Bath. His map shows a total of seven structures only three which still stand today, and of those three the Daniel Steckel House is the oldest. Bath was established around the tannery and the Daniel Steckel House and demonstrates how a cross-road settlement can grow into a prosperous middle-sized community.

In 1834 the first house of worship in Bath the "Bath Kirche" was completed to be used by the Reformed and Lutheran congregations and Daniel Steckel was one of the first officers. He was called a "pillar" of the Reformed church and rendered valuable financial aid for its construction. He gave liberally of his time to public affairs, and was held in high esteem by his townsmen. Having always been closely identified with the best interests and welfare of the community, he was given a public celebration on his hundredth birthday. He lived to be 101 and when he died took with him the esteem and respect of all his fellow citizens.

The Steckels remained in Bath and continued to affect its development for three more generations. Peter, Daniel's son, was a sergeant in the War of 1812 and sheriff of

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Northampton County from 1841 to 1844. Joseph, another son of Daniel, succeeded his father as proprietor of the tanning business and also managed a large farm, and like his father was successful at both. Henry, son of Joseph, was one of the leading attorneys of the Northampton County bar and served two terms as prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County. When his father retired in 1864, he succeeded him as the head of the Bath tannery business. At age ninety Henry turned over the homestead to his son Daniel E. who lived there until his death in 1946.

The Steckel family may rightly be called the founders of this community because of their rich and varied contributions. The tannery was the first enterprise in the area and remained a large employer for several generations. The Borough of Bath has grown up around the Daniel Steckel House but the house and town still maintain their early Nineteenth Century air.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .293
Quadrangle name Catasauqua, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 6 6 7 0 0	4 5 0 8 3 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Daniel Steckel House property starts at the intersection of Northampton and Chestnut Streets and goes along the middle of Northampton Street S. 85° 00' W. 99.48 feet, then along the land of Joseph Tito N. 11° 33' W. 124.44 feet, then along the land of Mary Horn S. 89° 05' W. 121.81 feet to a point in the middle of Chestnut

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 Carol K. Stirling

organization _____ date _____

street & number 207 West Northampton Street telephone 215-837-7766

city or town Bath state Pennsylvania 18014

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

Larry E. Tise, Executive Director
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/17/82

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

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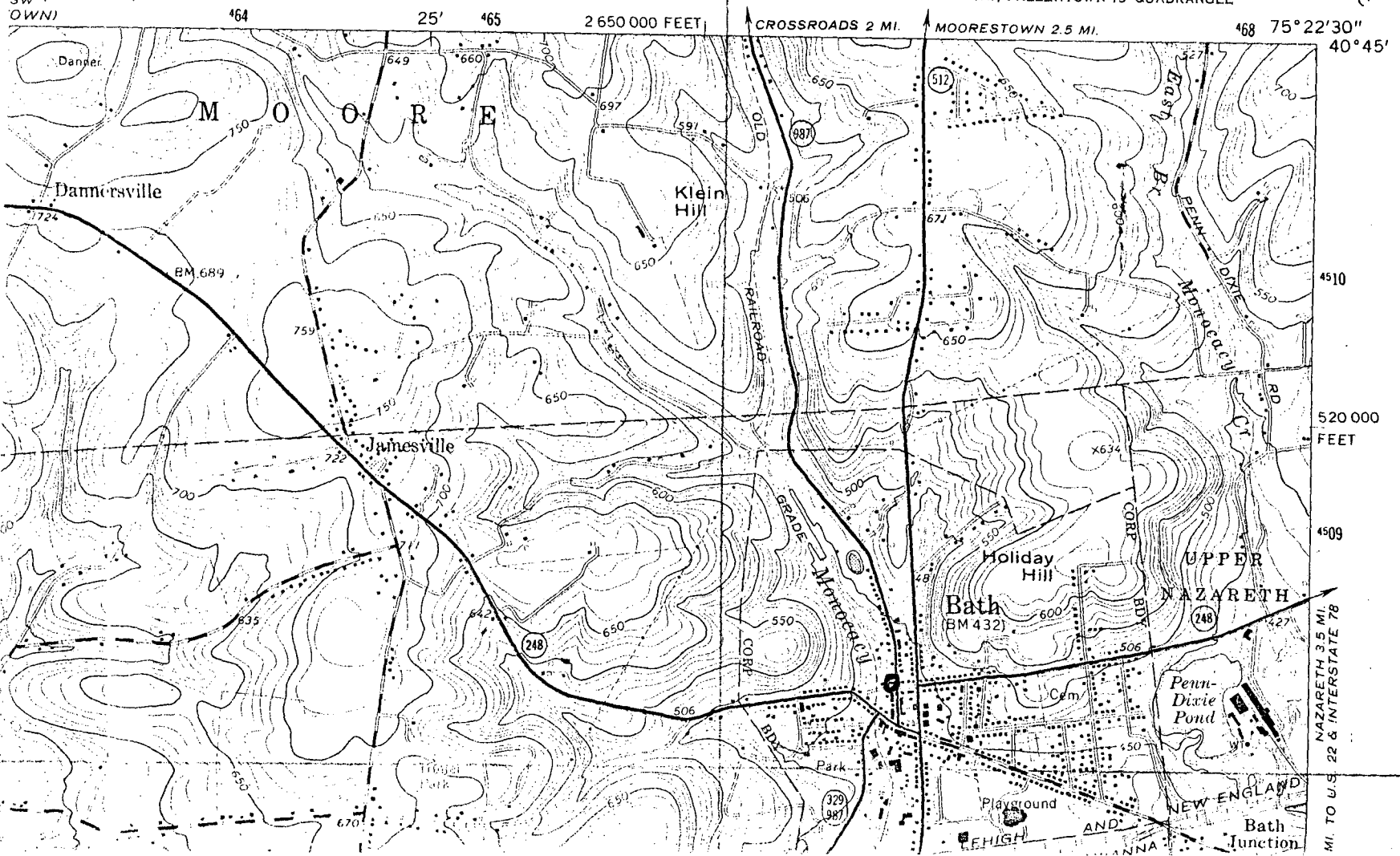
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PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL AFFAIRS
TOPOLOGIC SURVEY
SW
OWN

CATASAUQUA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 ALLENTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

5965 IV SE
(WIND GAP)



Daniel Steckel House
Northampton County
Zone 18 E466700 N4508340