

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 28 1975

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 Beck House

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Scott House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 62 North Front Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Sunbury

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17

STATE Pa.

VICINITY OF  
CODE 42

COUNTY Northumberland CODE 097

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Nita K. Beck

STREET & NUMBER 62 North Front St.

CITY, TOWN Sunbury

VICINITY OF

STATE Pa.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Nita K. Beck  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Northumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 62 North Front St.  
Market Square

CITY, TOWN Sunbury  
Sunbury

STATE Pa.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Provincial survey of the requested land grant ordered by the Proprietaries, executed by the Surveyor General, certified in Sec. office

DATE March, 1773

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Northumberland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Sunbury

STATE Pa.

# 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 checked="" 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 original portion of the Beck house was built sometime between 1773 and 1796, probably by the first owner of the surrounding land, Jacob Doudel. The age of the front section of the house is confirmed by a 1796 datestone.

The original section of the house was of rough fieldstone, two bays by two bays, with large corner quoins. The sash windows had nine-over-six lights, and panelled shutters. Large brick chimneys were placed at either side of the building.

The 1796 section of the house is three bays on the front elevation and two stories high. Stones of geometric shapes - diamonds, circles, rectangles - have been inlaid as part of the stonework in several variations. A crude, raised string course between the first and second stories on the front of the building contains diamonds alternating with rectangles. On the gable end, large rectangles, a diamond, and a circle make a vertical pattern through the center of the building. The new section also has corner quoins. Its sash windows have two-over-two panes, with keystone patterned lintel over windows on both stories. A fine wooden cornice consists of dentils, moulding, and fretwork pattern. The mouldings continues across the gable end as part of a pent roof. The lower right hand window was originally an entranceway. It is flanked by pilasters and topped by a fanlight window. Above the window is a gabled hood of moulding with returns. The pilaster and moulding motifs are repeated on the two gabled dormers.

Exterior alterations have included removal of the shutters, 20<sup>th</sup> addition of an enclosed porch on the north side, and addition of a patio on the south side, also recent.

A large proportion of the interior has remained unchanged from original appearance. In the kitchen, a large fireplace is still in use. Panelled and plank floors with strap hinges, old fireplaces, and original plank floors remain in most rooms.

# 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 checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beck House is significant as an example of vernacular adaptation of architectural style, and also because a great deal of its interior is still intact. The house is also one of the earliest dwellings in the Sunbury area and as such is an important artifact of the area's early history.

The builder of the house combined customary classical detailing with his own design elements to create an integrated whole. The geometric designs in the stonework are highly unusual, probably unique. Such detail is extremely remarkable, particularly since the medium is fieldstone. The classical elements - fanlight window, pilasters, cornice - blend well with the dressed stone to form a distinctive piece of vernacular architecture.

The interior is notable because it contains many original features which are still intact and in use. Flooring, interior woodwork, fireplaces, and stairways are examples.

The Beck House has been the property of the Beck family for approximately sixty years since it was purchased by the Beck family in 1915. The structure was once referred to as the Scott House because it was occupied by the Scott family for a twenty year period, from 1871 to 1891. A chronology of property owners with brief biographical data regarding tenants of note is attached.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Northumberland County Historical Publication. Vol. 6, page 226  
 Kauffman Library, 228 Arch St., Sunbury, Pa.  
 Sunbury Bicentennial Pub. 1772-1972. Page 177 with plates. Kaufman  
 library, 228 Arch St., Sunbury, Pa.

con't

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	3, 4, 8	6, 3, 9	4, 5	2, 5	0, 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 Nita K. Beck  
Sally McMurry, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION owner DATE April 21, 1975  
Pa. Historical Museum Commission  
 STREET & NUMBER 62 N. Front St. TELEPHONE (717) 787-4363  
Wm Penn Museum Box 1026  
 CITY OR TOWN Sunbury STATE Pa.  
Harrisburg

**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

*[Signature]* 7/17/75

TITLE Executive Director  
Pa. Historical 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  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

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Bibliographical References:

Original deed and warrant. "Honorable Thomas Penn and John Penn, Esq., Proprietaries and Governors in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania." to Jacob Doutler, March 25, 1773, Lot #57 in the city of Sunbury. In possession of the present owner:

Deed. Heirs of Jacob Doutler to Samuel Scott, January 22, 1795. Entered in Deed Book "N", page 430, October 1, 1806 at the Northumberland County Courthouse, Market Square, Sunbury, Pa. Original in possession of present owner.

All Succeeding deeds duly recorded at above courthouse.

