

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
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 Passavant House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
243 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Zelienople

STATE  
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF  
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
25th

COUNTY  
Butler

CODE  
019

**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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<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 Mr. Lester R. Mohr

STREET & NUMBER  
121 Arthur Street

CITY, TOWN  
Zelienople

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Butler

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

# 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 Passavant House was built in 1809 as a wedding present for Zelle Basse Passavant. The house is a rather simple 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  story brick building on a sandstone foundation. The house is three bays wide and two deep. The main facade has a centrally located doorway whose elegance and grace is highlighted by the austerity of the rest of the house. The recessed doorway is flanked by two reeded pilasters supporting a full pediment. The panelling on the door, and entrance way, the sunburst transom is reminiscent of the doorways of Georgian Philadelphia.

The windows have simple stone sills and lintels. Those on the front have panelled shutters. (Early drawings of the house show shutters of a batten construction). A brick stringcourse runs across the main facade providing the only exterior decoration. Small square windows are located in the attic level of the gables.

Circa 1820 a two story frame addition was added to the rear of the house. The addition was three bays long and effectively double the size of the house. In 1915 a two story bay window arrangement was added to the north gable end and a classic Greek revival porch added to the north side of the addition. Aside from these items the house has been little altered.

The interior of the house has most of its original wood work including flooring, panelling and fireplace mantles.

# 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 1809

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick William Detmar Basse

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Baron" Frederick William Detmar Basse suffered severe financial losses in Germany during the early Napoleonic wars. In 1802 in an attempt to recoup his fortunes he purchased 10,000 acres of Depreciation Lands in what is now Butler County. By 1808 he had sold a large tract of his land to the Harmony Society, and developed farming and mercantile interest throughout the area. He laid out a town which he named after his favorite daughter Zelig. He persuaded Zelig and her new husband Philippe Passavant to immigrate and in 1809 constructed the subject house as a gift for them.

The Passavant House is the oldest house in Zelig and is well preserved. Its fine "Philadelphia" doorway is particularly noteworthy.

Mention should also be made of Dr. William A. Passavant, Zelig's son. Dr. Passavant was widely known for his work in establishing educational and eleemosynary institutions. He founded the Passavant Hospital in Chicago and Pittsburgh, the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, the Lutheran Children's Home in Zelig, Thiel College and many others.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Butler County, Pennsylvania, Chicago: Waterman, Watkins and Company, 1883.

Gerberding, G. H. D. Life and Letters of W. A. Passavant.

Stot, Charles, 1906. An Architectural Survey of Western Pa. Pgh.: Univ. of Pgh. Press, 1966

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 572820 4515920  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 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

William K. Watson, Acting Director, Office of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

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

*William K. Watson*

TITLE

Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

Nov. 1, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

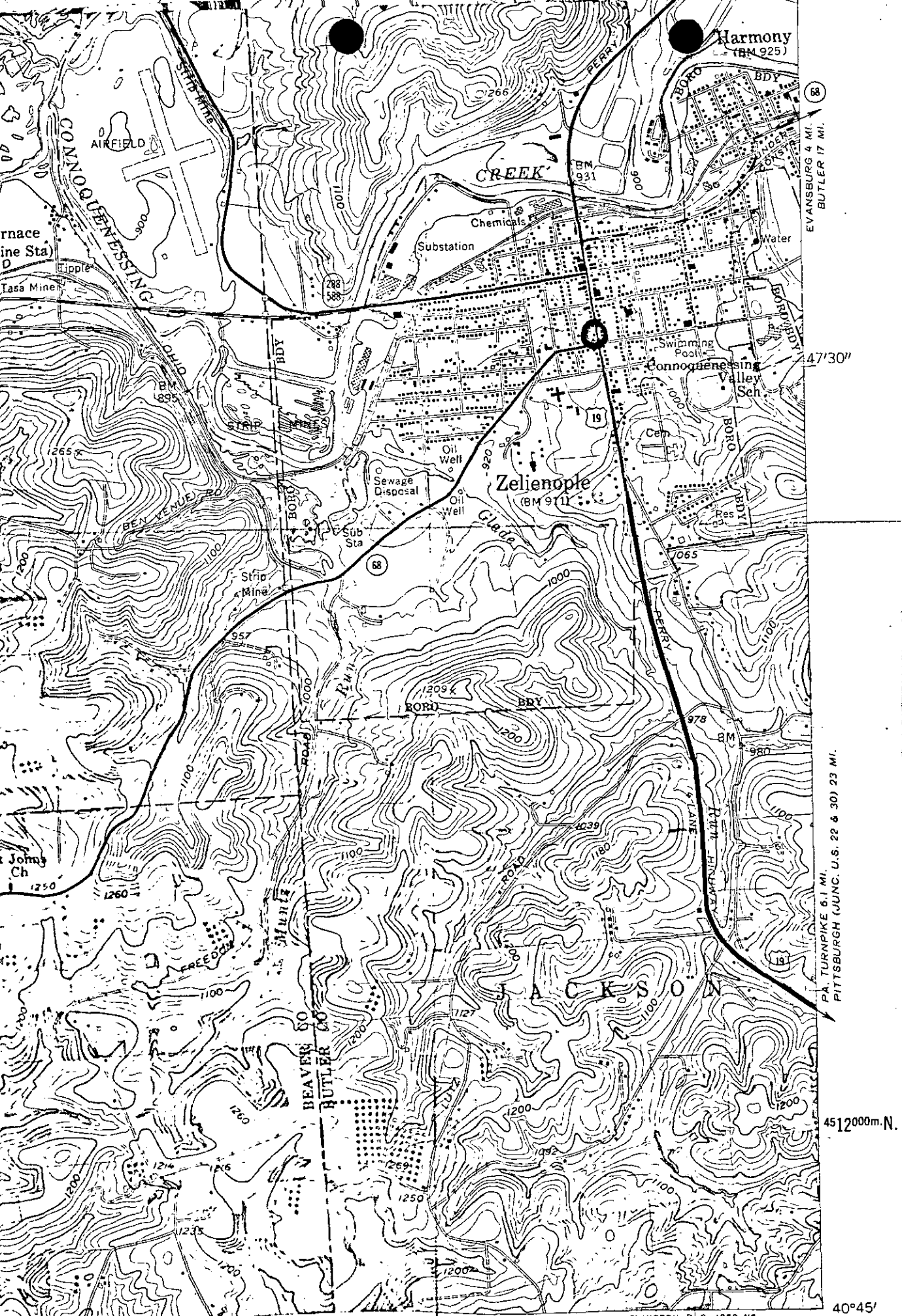
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PASSAVANT HOUSE  
 Butler County  
 ZONE 17    572 820    4515 920

EVANSBURG 4 MI.  
 BUTLER 17 MI.

PA. TURNPIKE 6.7 MI.  
 PITTSBURGH (JUNC. S. 22 & 30) 23 MI.

4512000m.N.

40°45'  
80°07'30"