

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Catasauqua Residential Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Generally bounded by Howertown Rd, Oak St., Railroad Ave. & Bridge Street not for publication

city, town Catasauqua vicinity of _____

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lehigh code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number _____

city, town _____ N/A vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lehigh County Courthouse

street & number Fifth & Hamilton Streets

city, town Allentown state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lehigh Co. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979020 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Descriptive

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Catasauqua Residential Historic District is a residential district located in the northern portion of Catasauqua. The district is set on a hill that rises from east to west. Workers housing bounds the district on the south and east while newer residences are north of the district. To the west of the district at the foot of the hill is a row of workers housing and an area occupied by mills. The Lehigh River is just west of this area. The street plan within the district forms a grid pattern with streets going north-south and east-west. The eastern boundary, Howerton Road, is an exception to the grid pattern. Howerton Road goes in a diagonal from the northeast to southwest.

Within the district there are sixty-three contributing structures and five intrusive structures. Stylistically the district ranges from Greek Revival to Georgian Revival; however, the overall character of the district is late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The two most common styles are Queen Anne and Georgian Revival. Most structures within the district are large brick residences, often five bays or more, at least two piles and at least two stories. There are a few high style structures within the district, but most buildings are vernacular examples of particular styles.

The most outstanding building in the district is the Dery Mansion, a 48 room mansion which encompasses almost an entire block on Fifth Street. Constructed of brick and reinforced concrete, the three story structure is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival style. The structure is enhanced by a massive Corinthian portico with Doric Columns and a terrace inlaid with imported Italian terra cotta tiles which surround the entire house. The interior features carved oak walls on the portico an imported marble staircase, an elaborate Tiffany glass skylight, and a swimming pool. While no buildings in the district rival the Dery Mansion, there are a number of other residences that are exceptional architecturally. At least three residences, the David Thomas House on Second Street, the Fatzinger House on Bridge and another residence at 514 Pine represent good examples of the Queen Anne style. Among the best Georgian Revival style buildings are the Oscar Stein House on Bridge St. and another residence at 303 Bridge. While the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles are the most popular, examples of Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Eastlake and Tudor Revival styles architecture can also be found within the district.

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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Catasauqua Residential Historic District reflects the affluence and prosperity that the anthracite iron industry brought to Catasauqua. Once surrounded by workers housing, much of the district was at one time owned by the town's best known iron baron, David Thomas, who, along with a few other prominent businessmen made his home there. In the late nineteenth century Thomas' extensive holdings were sold for development and the district became the area where the town's new upper class, including D.G. Dery, a silk mill operator, located. Though the industrial concerns that brought prominence to the area are gone, the district continues to reflect the wealth that was once part of Catasauqua.

Until the 1830's almost all iron furnaces in the United States were fueled by charcoal. However, spurred by a diminishing supply of lumber and a substantial reward offered by the Lehigh Coal and Mining Company, numerous efforts were made within Pennsylvania to develop a furnace that burned anthracite coal. The most successful attempt was made by the Lehigh Iron Company. After consulting with George Crane, an ironmaster who had developed an anthracite furnace in Wales, the company brought David Thomas, an apprentice operator at Crane's furnaces in Wales, to America. Locating along the Lehigh River, the Lehigh Crane Iron Company, under Thomas' guidance, opened an anthracite furnace in July, 1840. The furnace was so successful that within a decade the Lehigh Crane Iron Company built four more furnaces along side the original.

The 1860's was a decade of explosive growth in Catasauqua. The impact of the Civil War on the production of iron had a very positive effect on Lehigh-Crane as well as the borough. By the end of the decade the company had six furnaces in operation. New iron companies were also opened in Catasauqua during the 1860's. In 1863 David Thomas, the guiding light of Lehigh-Crane twenty years earlier, started the Northern Iron Company to manufacture iron plate and rails. As a rolling mill, Thomas' new enterprise, renamed the Catasauqua Manufacturing Company in 1868, complemented the production of the Lehigh-Crane furnaces. Other metal manufacturers that opened during the decade included the Davies and Thomas Foundry in 1865 and McKee, Fuller and Company a year later. The Lehigh Fire Brick Company, two breweries and another regional railroad, the Lehigh and Susquehanna, added diversity to the borough industrial base. This rapid industrial expansion was reflected by a population growth of 72.5% between 1860 and 1870.

By 1870 Catasauqua was at the heart of the premier iron producing area in the United States. There were eight furnaces located across the Lehigh in Hockendauqua, six Lehigh Crane furnaces, and four more furnaces a short distance down river. The regional railroads and canal brought magnetite iron ore and anthracite coal to the furnaces and carried finished pig iron to markets. Two local railroads brought limonite iron ore from the central Lehigh Valley and provided reliable transportation between local mills. With rolling mills in Catasauqua and Allentown and a number of nearby limestone quarries, by 1870 the industrial concentration in the Catasauqua area was comparable to almost any industrial area in the world.

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During the years of rapid insutrial growth in Catasauqua, a residential area containing large, substantial structures developed in the central portion of the town. Much of this land was owned by David Thomas and, prior to 1860, accomodated few buildings. In 1856 Thomas built a large stone home in the vernacular Romanesque Revival style. (the structure was later rebuilt in the Queen Anne style). Located on Second Street near Pine and situated in a park like setting, the house dominated the immediate area and overlooked Thomas' furnaces. The same year that the Thomas house was built, the First Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua, a Gothic Revival style structure, was constructed across the street from the Thomas house. During Thomas' lifetime only a few other structures were built in the central part of town. All were large residences and all refelcted the growing prosperity of the town. One of these structures was a substantial Queen Anne style home at 616 Second Street which was owned by Oliver Williams, one of the founders of Bryden Horse Shoe Works. Dr. James Hornbeck built a fashïonable brick Eastlake style home of Bridge Street in the 1870's. Two other noteworthy dwellings from the period were the Applegate house, built in the Italianate style, and the Greek Revival Fuller house, also on Bridge Street.

As the prominence of Catasauqua's iron industry began to ebb in the late nineteenth century, new local industries were developed. Perhaps the most important enterprises were the silk mills that came to the borough. The Walmetah Mill began producing silk fabric in 1890 and by 1903 had 300 looms in operation. A decade later the company had 700 looms. In 1897, C.D. Dery Company located one of its fifteen mills in the borough and another mill, the Catasauqua Mill, was organized in 1911. The silk industry remained important to Catasauqua until after World War II. A local commercial district also developed in the late nineteenth century. Since the 1860's small shops had been locating along Front and Second Streets in the Biery's Port portion of town. By 1900 these small shops formed a healthy local retail industry. A few businesses, like F.W. Wint Company, a lumber mill begun in the 1870's, were able to expand their operations. Wint expanded onto the property previously owned by the Catasauqua Rolling Mills. Other new businesses included the Catasauqua Boiler Works, opened in 1901, the Leicester Rubber Company in 1913, and the Catasauqua Motor Car Works in 1914.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also saw much residential construction in the central portion of Catasauqua. After the death of David Thomas in 1882, his land became available for development. Already recognized as Catasauqua's most exclusive neighborhood, the area attracted many of the town's new entrepreneurs and factory operators. Among the businessmen to build in the district was D.G. Dery. Dery came to Catasauqua in 1897 and within twenty years his business had expanded to include 40 additional mills with 10,000 employees and assets of almost \$50 million. Built in 1910 in the Neo-Classical Revival style, Dery's mansion reflected its owners wealth. The three story house includes 48 rooms, an indoor swimming pool and is entirely surrounded by a terrace composed of imported Italian terra cotta tiles. Though the Dery Mansion was the most important addition to the area there were a number of new structures that re-inforced the prestige of the neighborhood. The more outstanding include a Colonial Revival style home built by James Thomas, the son of David Thomas, four impressive Queen Anne style dwellings, an Eastlake building and a Tudor Revival building. Other less opulent, but nevertheless, substantial homes also became part of the district during the period.

By the end of World War I most of the iron related mills in the Catasauqua area had closed. Catasauqua Casting Company and Catasauqua Boiler Company both closed in 1917. The Lehigh Fire Brick Company also shut down shortly after the war. Financial difficulties

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finally forced the two surviving iron companies in the area, Crane Iron in Catasauqua and Thomas Iron across the river in Hockendauqua to close. No longer were these small merchant furnaces able to compete with US Steel and other large steel corporations. Like the iron industry, some of the transportation systems that served Catasauqua did not survive the 1920's. The Lehigh Canal Company ceased operations as did two local and one regional railroad. Thus, by 1930 Catasauqua had become primarily a residential community.

In the years that followed much of the workers housing in Catasauqua experienced demolition or unsympathetic alterations. Fortunately few of the town's more prominent dwellings suffered similar fates. Today these residences remain as constant reminder of the wealth and opulence that the anthracite iron industry brought to the town during the last half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 23

Quadrangle name Catasauqua

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References see continuation sheet

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification
(see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Doutrich

organization Bureau for Historic Preservation date February, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone (717) 783-8946

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

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]

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/4/84

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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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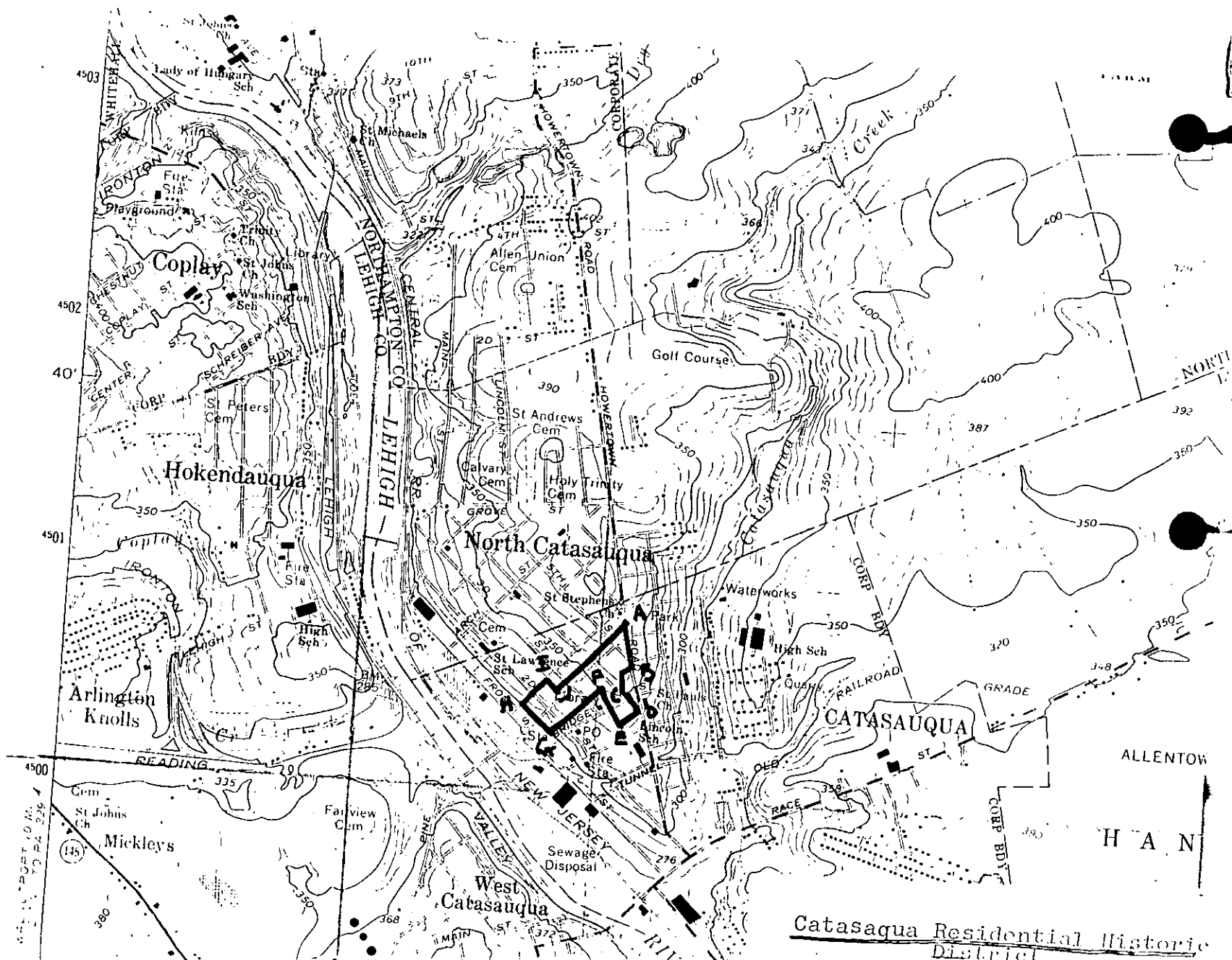
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Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Railroad Street and Walnut Street and proceeding east along the south side of Walnut to the intersection with Limestone Street; then, south along the west side of Limestone to the intersection with Oak Street; then, east along the south side of Oak to the intersection with Howertown Rd; then, southwest along the west side of Howertown to the intersection with Strawberry St; then, west along the north side of Strawberry to the intersection with Blackberry Street; then, south in a line that extends from Blackberry along the east and south property lines of the the structure at the southeast corner of the intersection at Strawberry and 4th Streets; then, south along the west side of Fourth to the intersection with Bridge; then, west along the north side of Bridge to Crane Street; south along the west side of Crane to Middle Street; then, west along the north side of Middle to Limestone Street, then, north along the east side of Limestone to Bridge Street; then, west along th north side of Bridge to an unnamed alley between Second and Limestone Street; then, north along the east side of the unnamed alley to Strawberry; then, west along the north side of Strawberry to Railroad; then, north along the east side of Railroad to the starting point.

Justification:

The boundaries for the Catasauqua Historic District were chosen after considering the architectural qualities of the district. North and south of the district the building stock is generally of the same period but not similar in size or scale. There has also been much alterations done on the structures to the north and south. East of the district the buildings are from a later period, generally the 1930's & 1940's. The area west of the district was once occupied by mills and is now modern buildings or open space.



Catsauqua Residential Historic District