

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Search, George W., House  
other names/site number N/A

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2. Location

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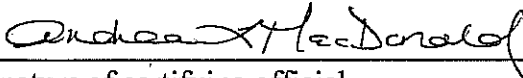
street & number 56 South Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Shickshinny vicinity N/A  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Luzerne code 079 zip code 18655

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

April 17, 2009

Date

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Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
(See continuation sheet).
- determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register  
(See continuation sheet).
- determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

5. Classification.

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Single Dwelling
Health Care	Medical Business/ Office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone
roof	Synthetic
walls	Weatherboard
other	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance ca. 1860-1928

Significant Date(s) 1916-1928

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one Acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	403407E	4555933N	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Jeremy Ammerman  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 1/04/2009  
street & number 303 High Street telephone 717-515-5564  
city or town Manchester state Pa zip code 17345

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Built circa 1860 by George W. Search and altered between 1916 and 1928 by subsequent owner, Dr. Miron Briggs, the George W. Search House is a rectangular, two bay wide, five room deep, two story gable front frame building. It is covered with clapboard siding. The property sits on a hill between three streets—South Main to the east, Furnace to the north, and West Butler to the south. To the west, a small driveway separates the Search House from a neighboring bungalow. The property consists of the contributing house and a non-contributing carriage house that was rebuilt in 1995 after the original collapsed. Distinctive architectural features of the Search House include six stained glass windows, a wrap-around porch, a second story porch on the west elevation, and a crystal glass etched main entry door. The property sits in a mostly residential area consisting of early 20th century buildings and a handful of Late 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular dwellings. Overall, the property retains all seven aspects of integrity.

The George W. Search House occupies a nearly triangular parcel of land bordered by Furnace Street, South Main Street, and West Butler Street. The house is set back from Furnace Street and South Main Street by a sidewalk; a four foot tall cut stone retaining wall, constructed sometime between 1903 and 1927 due to the widening of South Main Street; and a lawn consisting of grass and ornamental plantings. It is set back from West Butler Street by a sidewalk and lawn. Landscaping on the West Butler Street side consists of grass along with a row of ornamental evergreen shrubs planted against the house. Landscaping on the South Main Street side consists of a large evergreen tree at the intersection with West Butler Street, along with several smaller evergreen shrubs. On the Furnace Street Side, there are more evergreen shrubs along with two hardwood trees that lead to the non-contributing carriage house behind the Search House. The west side of the house borders a concrete driveway. The Search House, itself, is a 26 foot wide by 53 foot long rectangular gable front building clad in clapboard and topped by a fiberglass-covered roof which includes copper gutters and cast iron snow shields. The house has two brick chimneys, one that protrudes from the northwestern section of the roof, and one that is attached to the west façade, just north of the roof's centerline. The east and approximately half of the north elevation's first story is sheltered by a simple one-story Doric ordered, eight columned, standing seam metal shed roofed porch. Before the widening of Main Street the porch ran the full length of the north elevation. By comparing the two Sanborn maps of this property from 1901 and 1928, there is a noticeable change in the porch length<sup>1</sup>. The 1901

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<sup>1</sup> "Shickshinny, Pennsylvania." Nov. 1901 & Jan. 1928. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-

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map shows the porch running to the end of the house, past the end of the bay window on the opposite southern elevation. In the 1928 Sanborn map, the porch ends at the beginning of the bay window of the opposite southern elevation.

The gable end east façade consists of two bays on the first floor, three on the second, and a paired window in the gable peak. The two bays on the first floor consist of an unadorned, single light, glass chestnut door, flanked by full height sidelights and a single transom light on the southern portion of the façade; both the transom and side lights feature a floral crystal etched design. On the northern portion of the façade, a stained glass transom caps a single hung light. The transom features a vertically staggered multiple yellow tulip design, executed in green and yellow glass. The three asymmetrical bays above the porch consist of a twentieth century six over one double hung window above the doorway, with two similar windows above the first floor window. A small paired set of six light casement windows, which are protected by a louvered wood design, are located within the gable peak. All windows on the east facade contain a beveled edge lintel that measures 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep except at the top bevel, which measures 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The remaining casing measures 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep. The roofline features a beveled edge and half rounded gutters.

The north elevation features five asymmetrical bays on the first and second stories and the side of the west elevation porch addition. The westernmost two bays appear to have been added between 1916 and 1928, as is demonstrated in the two historic photographs from these time periods.<sup>2</sup> The two windows were added when the extension along the western elevation was modified.<sup>3</sup> A simple wrought iron screened door entry serves as the second bay from the east on the first floor. A pair of stained glass transom overhead windows are located on each side of the door. The remaining two bays of the first floor are simple six over one double hung windows. The second floor bays all consist of twentieth century six over one double hung windows. The stone pier-supported columned porch halts abruptly above the last stained glass transom overhead window on the north elevation. Visible from this elevation, a small one over one light window marks the porch extension of the western elevation.

The western elevation currently consists of a two bay, one room by one and a half story,

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1970 - Pennsylvania.

<sup>2</sup> Price, *From the Land of 5 Mountains*.

<sup>3</sup> "Shickshinny, Pennsylvania" Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.



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poured concrete and frame extension added to the house during the 1920s road widening project.<sup>4</sup> The first story of the extension features a nine light door set between two paired 15 light windows that extend from the top of the door frame to about the level of the doorknob. The north and south facades of the extension consist of a single one over one light window. A porch comprises the second story of the extension. This porch mimics the materials of main wrap-around porch with chestnut tongue and groove wood for the ceiling and tongue and groove chestnut flooring. Supports for the porch mimic Tuscan ordered columns, minus the frieze. A large single hung stained glass window is centered on the second story elevation. On its southern end, a simple plank framed, decorative h-hinged, copper screen door secures entry to the porch. As with the east façade, the gable peak of this facade features a paired set of six light casement windows covered by vented slats. In 1902, the west elevation consisted of a two bay, two room deep addition. This addition was an attached livery. Upon the widening of State Route 11, the livery was shifted near the north elevation of the house. The livery was converted into the carriage house which collapsed in 1995.

Currently, the south elevation features a set of stained glass windows to provide light to the top and bottom of an interior stairway located directly behind the southern end of the eastern façade. A single unit, two story, late 19<sup>th</sup> century bay window, located toward the western end of the south façade, is the most prominent feature on the southern elevation; This window appears on a 1901 Sanborn map.<sup>5</sup> Just west of this window is a first story six over one light window. At one point, there were two six light windows in this location, one on the first floor and one on the second. It appears that the removal of the second story window, and the addition of the stained glass windows on this elevation took place sometime between 1902 and 1928, corresponding to Dr. Miron Briggs' ownership of the house.

The east façade entry leads directly into a hallway, the left side of which features a chestnut staircase leading to the second floor; this staircase corresponds to the stained glass windows on the south façade. Under the stairway is a closet. A hand blown glass light bulb in its original crystal light fixture provides light to the hallway. Beyond the hallway, behind a set of swinging chestnut doors is a dining room, corresponding to the bay window on the south façade.

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<sup>4</sup> Sarah Briggs to Francene Tearpock-Martini, Este 31, March 1995, transcript in the hand of Francene Tearpock-Martini, Personal Files, Shickshinny, PA.

<sup>5</sup> "Shickshinny, Pennsylvania" Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

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Beyond the dining room is a pantry. The pantry features floor to ceiling cupboards with a simple latch mechanism and tin lining. The north side of the entrance hallway features two doorways, one to the parlor at the front (east façade) of the house, and one to the living room, directly west of the parlor. In addition, the parlor connects to the living room through a pair of sliding chestnut doors. The living room, which connects to the exterior wrap-around porch on the north façade and the kitchen to the west, features a brick fireplace with a keystone motif and chestnut mantel. The kitchen serves as the main artery of the house, connecting to a small bathroom in the west façade porch extension, the pantry, the dining room, and, as mentioned previously, the living room. In addition, a butler's staircase located along the east wall of the kitchen provides access to the second floor. The west elevation porch extension features a powder room connected to the kitchen. It features a colonial revival design with built in shower and shelving. Directly south of the powder room is a sun porch, south of which is a small former ice room.

Overall, all rooms on the first floor contain two and a quarter inch, diagonal set, tongue and groove, oak hardwood flooring. The flooring is set at a forty five degree angle to the front (east) façade of the house and runs continuously throughout the first floor without thresholds. All other woodwork on the first floor is chestnut: the doors, the door framing, the window framing, and the baseboards, which are present in every room. Furthermore, all of these chestnut elements feature faux wood graining. All door hardware and knobs appear to date around 1902.

The first floor entrance hallway staircase leads to a second floor hallway. Directly east of this hallway, against the front (east) façade of the house is a small bedroom. Directly west of the stairway is a bedroom/sun parlor that is lit by the south façade's bay window. This bedroom features a closet. The north side of the second floor hallway leads to the master bedroom at the east end of the house, a linen closet west of the master bedroom, another bedroom west of the linen closet, an entryway—containing the butler's staircase—to another bedroom, a bathroom abutting the second floor porch, and the second floor porch. The master bedroom is lit by three six over one light windows and contains a large closet directly north of the chestnut linen closet. The bedroom directly north of the linen closet, which is entered from the hallway via a single hinged door, is lit by two windows and features a closet, just north of the master bedroom's closet. In addition, this bedroom provides entry, via a partially mirrored glass door, to the final bedroom on the second floor. The final bedroom is lit by two windows and allows access to the attic. The bathroom is lit by a stained glass overhead transom window. Overall, the second floor, like the first floor, features oak tongue and groove flooring laid at a forty-five degree angle.

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The rest of the wooden elements on the second floor, baseboards, chair rails, simple corner fluted pilasters, and four paneled doors are made of chestnut. As with the first floor, the second floor features faux wood graining on all doors, baseboards, and on the main staircase. A brass intercom call system is installed in various rooms throughout the upstairs, along with simple lighting fixtures.

The attic features two sets of paired six light casement windows in the opposite gable peaks. Four hinged doors, featuring a simple latch mechanism, mark built-in storage areas in the attic. Remnants of the knob and tube electrical system are still present throughout the attic. The roof's principal rafter system can be seen from the attic, as well. The fully excavated basement, constructed of local quarried stone, contains two rooms: a small room used as storage closet and a large room used as a coal storage area.

The 1995 carriage house, located near the rear of the property along Furnace Street, is a noncontributing building that was rebuilt after the original carriage house collapsed. Fixed six over six light windows border the main entry. Unlike the original carriage house's doors, the current building's entry is through French doors. These French doors consist of swinging glass doors, bordered by full length side lights, and a large arched transom light. Paired fixed six light windows run along the remaining second story faces of the structure. A single entry glass door is located along the western facade.

The George W. Search House retains all seven aspects of integrity for its period of significance. It remains in its original **location** and its small borough residential **setting** has not been compromised by teardowns or modern residential development. The Search House, with its original clapboard siding, porch materials, and doors on the exterior, and its diagonal oak tongue and groove flooring and chestnut baseboards, chair rails, simple fluted pilasters, and doors on the interior, retains integrity of **materials**. Changes to the original materials, such as the replacement of all original non-stained glass windows with nine over one windows do not impact the property's integrity because they were made by Dr. Briggs during the period of significance. Other changes, such as the replacement of the roof and gutters have a minimal impact on integrity of materials because, although executed by the current owner, they were executed in a historically sensitive manner. The Search House, with its gable front orientation and wrap-around porch on the exterior, and its floor plan, retains integrity of **design**, as well. As with integrity of materials, changes to the property, such as the addition of an intercom system, the addition of windows, the introduction of stained glass windows, the modification of the porch,



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The George W. Search House is significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a locally significant example of vernacular architecture that employs more sophisticated architectural elements than are seen elsewhere in its community. The communities in the northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite region exhibit a range of architectural sophistication from the small communities made up of mostly vernacular buildings to the larger communities with a large number of "high-style" or architect-designed buildings. The George W. Search House represents a middle ground between these two types of architectural expression. The period of significance for the George W. Search House begins with its date of construction, ca. 1860 and ends in 1928, encompassing the changes made by the second owner, Dr. Miron Briggs.

Conveniently nestled within a valley, the area allowed the only access to the Susquehanna River for sixteen miles, and, therefore, thrived and grew before its incorporation. Mineral deposits found in the early part of the nineteenth century encouraged further growth. In July of 1828, the northern branch of the Pennsylvania Canal was begun.<sup>7</sup> Creation of the canal along the Susquehanna River motivated the area to seek distant markets for their farm products, coal, and lumber. Charcoal furnaces, along with various mills, allowed the area to offer a wide variety of products to surrounding areas.

The first settler in the area that would become Shickshinny Borough, Ralph Austin, arrived in the 1770s. The Wyoming Massacre of 1778 forced Austin and his family to flee.<sup>8</sup> Some time after the battle, however, Austin returned and resettled. In 1808, Austin lost his lands to Mathias Hollenback as a result of the Yankee-Pennamite Wars.<sup>9</sup> On February 18, 1858, Hollenback's 265 acre farm was purchased and the community of Shickshinny was laid out soon after. The four founders of the community included George Search and his brother, Lot.<sup>10</sup> George and Lot took possession of the area north of Shickshinny Creek while the other founders took possession of all the land south of the Shickshinny Creek.<sup>11</sup> Ca. 1860, George Search built

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Harvey, Oscar Jewell, A History of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley. (Wyoming Valley Historical and Geological Society, Luzerne County, Pa, Unknown)

<sup>9</sup> Shelia, Brandon, Biography of George W. Search 1816-1905, (Family File Archives of Lower Luzerne County Historical Society, Luzerne County, Pa, unknown)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

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his house on Lots 215 and 216, on a hill between three roads to afford a river view, but high enough to avoid being flooded. The house was designed as a simple vernacular gable-front building designed to fit the narrow, rectangular lots and to maximize space. Despite its vernacular construction techniques, the house did feature some more sophisticated elements, such as the wrap-around porch and stained glass windows. Shickshinny was incorporated as a borough on November 30, 1861.<sup>12</sup> On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1866, George and Lot purchased the rights to the lands for which no deeds had been written from their sole surviving partner.<sup>13</sup>

Although mining was important to the growth of the community, it was not until the discovery of Red Ash coal in the 1870s and the advent of the railroad that Shickshinny attracted a large number of people. Limestone became another important commodity and with lumbering, continued to bring a measure of prosperity to the community until World War I.<sup>14</sup> By 1890, the total population of the town was 1448.<sup>15</sup> The 20th century saw the end of the growth of Shickshinny as a small, successful, industrial town. Technological advancements, depletion of natural resources, and World War I, made the previous industries that had allowed the town to thrive almost obsolete. The Great Depression was the curtain call for the small borough. The borough now serves as a "bedroom" community for the cities of Scranton and Wilkes Barre.

The builder of the nominated property, George Search, began his professional career as a teacher. In 1842, he left his home in Union township to try his hand at general merchandising in the Shickshinny area. George joined with his brother Lot to open a post office and general store, which the two operated for a total of twelve years after 1850.<sup>16</sup> Lot continued this venture by himself for eight more years. The post office and general store was the beginning of a successful partnership that allowed the two brothers to have a great deal of influence over the development of Shickshinny. In 1851, George was appointed superintendent of the Pennsylvania Canal

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<sup>12</sup> M. L. T. Hartman, *History of Huntington Valley*, (Mountain Echo Newspaper, Lower Luzerne County, Pa, July 8, 1949)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> H. C Bradsby, *Biographical Sketches from the History of Luzerne County, Pa* (Family Line Publications, Westminster, Md 1893) 646.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 647.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

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between Northumberland and Lackawanna, a post which he held for nine years.<sup>17</sup> This position was important because of the sheer amount of freight and passengers carried by the canal.

In 1858, the brothers built and operated a series of mills which produced buckwheat, flour and feed for the surrounding area.<sup>18</sup> By 1873, the brothers expanded their business enterprise to include a brickyard and plaster mill. Most of the products created by the mills were sold in the brothers' general store. By 1884, Shickshinny had its own water company founded by the Search brothers, and led by George Search as president of the company.<sup>19</sup> George was also responsible for selling land to create the first public school, selling land for the railroad, and providing land for the first two churches in Shickshinny. As a result of having so much influence in the development and planning of Shickshinny, George held many political offices including Justice of the Peace and County Sheriff. On September 17, 1905, George Search died and his house was acquired by Dr. Miron Briggs who updated the house.<sup>20</sup> Dr. Miron Briggs was a practicing doctor in Shickshinny. He treated patients both at his office downtown and at his home, which he modified to be able to be on call when out of the office. By all accords Miron Briggs was a successful physician who was respected within Shickshinny, although a lack of information exists about him and his practice. When Briggs died, his property was acquired by the current owner.

The George W. Search House is architecturally significant as a good example of a vernacular building with sophisticated architectural detailing that makes it stand out in the borough of Shickshinny and in the vernacular landscape of many of the small communities in the area. Its wrap-around porch, stained glass windows, elaborate entryway, full two story bay window on the exterior, and its oak hardwood flooring and faux wood-grained chestnut woodwork on the interior distinguish it. The architectural landscape of Shickshinny is characterized by simple, vernacular elongated gable-front buildings, with some Gothic Revival-inspired vernacular buildings interspersed. There are also several undistinguishable early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century residences. The borough lacks the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian-era houses found

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Wilkes Barre Record, Obituary of George W. Search, (Lower Luzerne County Historical Society, Luzerne County, Pa, September 18, 1905)

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throughout much of Luzerne County. Although one reason for this is the large, devastating floods—such as the one in 1901 that is shown in the attached historic photograph—that have characterized the history of the borough, the character of the building stock has also been shaped by the socio-economic roots of the borough.

Historically, Union Street was the main residential street in Shickshinny, lined with simple, vernacular gable-front houses, as shown in historic photographs. Although the original character of the street has been drastically altered, either by frequent flooding or by modern alterations, its original vernacular landscape is still evident. One example of a typical, vernacular Shickshinny residence can be seen at 63 Union Street. Built in 1890, this house was constructed as a simple gable front house. The house has been altered with the addition of Colonial Revival detailing, the addition of new windows, replacement of windows, the addition of a pair of cross gables, and the addition of a bungalow style porch.

An example of vernacular architectural styling with some more sophisticated elements can be seen at 94 Union Street. Built circa 1860, this three bay by three room gable front house was modified in the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century with the addition of a large wrap-around porch with Late Victorian detailing, as well as the addition of a rear extension. These elements allow the residence to stand out from other properties along Union Street. In addition to the changes noted above, the windows were replaced with one over one windows, a bay window was added to the west elevation's second floor, the area below that window was changed to a double French door, and a two by two bay addition was added to the south elevation, which is not flush with the west elevation. The chimney along the gable peak of the southern face appears to have been replaced in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although the alterations make this building stand out from its neighbors, it lacks the rich architectural detailing (e.g. the stained glass windows, the full, two-story bay window, etc.) that characterizes the Search House.

A similar example can be found in Dallas Borough near Wilkes Barre. The 1868 Joseph Frantz House, a simple gable front property like the Search House, includes fine Victorian era woodworking and detailing. Although smaller than the George W. Search House, the Frantz house is three bays by two rooms deep. Exterior walls of the property are weatherboard with an uncoursed rubble foundation. A wrap around porch is the first prominent structural element noticeable on the house. The next two noticeable elements are the garage extension and brick chimney addition.

Architecturally, northeastern Pennsylvania's communities are a study in contrasts. Many



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of the smaller communities, including Shickshinny, Mocanaqua, and Wapwallopen, feature mostly vernacular buildings with little architectural detailing. These buildings, for the most part designed without the assistance of trained architects, were built to be simple and functional residences. Larger communities with more diversified economies, such as Berwick and Bloomsburg, feature very sophisticated architect-designed buildings that demonstrate the relatively prosperity these towns enjoyed. Although located in the small community of Shickshinny, and characterized by the general form and orientation of the vernacular building stock surrounding it, the Search House features more sophisticated elements, such as the stained glass windows, two story bay window and wrap-around porch on the exterior and the interior woodwork. Although these elements are not architect-designed, they do demonstrate that throughout the period of significance, the owners of the Search House were attempting to distinguish themselves and possibly emulate the more sophisticated communities nearby.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The National Register boundary for the George W. Search Homestead follows the parcels numbered 215 and 216 for the Borough of Shickshinny. These parcels are defined by Furnace, Butler, and Main Streets to the West, South and East.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the George W. Search Homestead encompasses the entire tax parcel. These lots have historically and functionally been associated with the house since 1870.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

George W. Search Homestead

56 S. Main Street

Shickshinny, Luzerne County, Pa

Photographer: Jeremy Ammerman

Date of Photographs: April 4, 2007

Photographs 1-14 were taken digitally, photos 15 and 16 were scanned from a black and white print.

Photographs were printed on HP premium plus high gloss photo paper with HP Viverra inks

Location of negatives: 303 High Street, Manchester, Pennsylvania. 17345

1. Looking southwest at main (east) façade and northern elevation
2. Looking southwest at main (east) facade
3. Looking southwest at northern elevation
4. Looking southeast at northern elevation
5. Looking northwest at southern elevation
6. Looking northeast at western elevation
7. Looking southeast at northern elevation of stone wall
8. Looking west at window along northern elevation
9. Looking east down stairway to the first floor
10. Looking east at main façade entry doorway
11. Looking north into the parlor
12. Looking east at dining room door
13. Looking south at fireplace in living room
14. Looking northeast at carriage house
15. Historic photograph 1901 looking northeast
16. Historic photograph taken June 1929 looking northwest