

# 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.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Stanton Historic District

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Refer to Continuation Sheet not for publication N/A

city or town Stanton vicinity N/A

state Pennsylvania code PA county Lehigh code 077 zip code 18080

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.)

Andrew H. Donald  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Date July 1, 2004  
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 official/Title  
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 the 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

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

Contributing	506	Contributing	53
Noncontributing	53	buildings	
		sites	
		structures	
		objects	
		Total	

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
 one

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)  
 COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
 DOMESTIC/hotel  
 RELIGION/church  
 EDUCATION/library  
 SOCIAL/meeting hall  
 GOVERNMENT/city hall  
 DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
 RELIGION/church-related residence  
 LANDSCAPE/parking lot  
 GOVERNMENT/city hall  
 VACANT/NOT IN USE

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)  
 COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
 DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
 RELIGION/church  
 EDUCATION/library  
 SOCIAL/meeting hall  
 RELIGION/church-related residence  
 LANDSCAPE/parking lot  
 GOVERNMENT/city hall  
 VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)  
 Refer to Continuation Sheet

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)  
 Refer to Continuation Sheets

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)  
 foundation: STONE/sandstone; BRICK  
 walls: BRICK; STONE; WOOD/weatherboard  
 roof: ASPHALT; SLATE;  
 other

State/ton Historic District

Name of Property

Lehigh County, PA  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**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 or 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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Hoch, O. S. builder

Steger, J. H., engineer

Opliners, George T., engineer

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Significant Dates**

1807; 1844; 1865

**Period of Significance**

1807-1953

**ARCHITECTURE**

INDUSTRY

Stateston Historic District

Lehigh County, PA

County and State

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acrage of Property 165 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Eastng	Northng	Zone	Eastng	Northng
1	18	447878	4	18	448501
2	18	448770	5	18	448277
3	18	448995	6	18	447937
N/A See continuation sheet					
4510570					

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundar of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundarjes were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.

date August, 2003

street & number 9 Walnut Street

telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville

state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation

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 propertes 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)

Property Owner

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

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Statington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA**

Section Number 2 Page 1

**2. Location, continued**

**Street & Number:**

Roughly bounded by Railroad Street, Fairview Avenue, Ruch Alley, Ridge Alley, the southern borough line, Long Alley, Washington Street, Hill Alley, Fifth Street, Dowell Street, railroad right-of-way, and Chestnut Street

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Statington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

Section Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Architectural Classification, continued

- MID -19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
- LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque Revival
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival
- MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Gothic Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire
- LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
- MID 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Italian Villa
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/American Foursquare
- OTHER

Narrative Description

The Statington Historic District (Photos 1-30; Figs. 1-8) is a mixed-use residential/ commercial/institutional historic district of 165 acres. The district encompasses the traditional core of the downtown and surrounding residential neighborhoods within the northeast Pennsylvania Borough of Statington, which is located on the west shore of the Lehigh River in northern Lehigh County. The district contains a total of 561 resources and one property previously listed in the National Register (the Fireman's Drinking Fountain, NR 1981; Resource No. 53).<sup>1</sup> Of the 561 counted resources, 508 (91%) contribute to the character of the district and 53 (9%) are non-contributing. Of the 561 unlisted resources in the district, 559 are buildings, and two bridges (Photo 26; Resource Nos. 42 and 561; Figs. 2, 5) are contributing structures. Approximately twenty percent of the resources in the district pre-date 1890, approximately seventy-five percent of the resources were constructed between 1890 and 1930, and the remaining approximately five percent post-date 1930. The architecture of the Statington-

<sup>1</sup>This property appears on the district map and within the Resource Inventory which accompany the nomination, but it is not included in the tabulation which appears in Section 5.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Slatington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

ton Historic District varies from modest vernacular residences<sup>2</sup> and commercial buildings to spacious and highly-detailed homes and business blocks, a diverse collection of churches, and the 1889 Slatington Borough Hall, a historic governmental building (Resource No. 249). Numerous strong examples of period styling are found throughout the district in its domestic, commercial, and institutional architecture. Most domestic architecture is of wood, while the district's commercial and institutional architecture is executed both in wood and brick, with brick predominating. Many of the homes retain spacious verandas and historic dependencies (carriage houses, barns, etc.) are included in the resource count, while smaller outbuildings (sheds, small automobile garages, etc.) are treated as small-scale features and are not represented in the count. The Slatington Historic District retains integrity in each of the seven qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Slatington Historic District is located on both sides of Main Street (Pennsylvania Route 873; Photos 1-9; Figs. 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 ), which is the community's principal historic commercial thoroughfare. Main Street runs in an east-to-west direction as it enters the northeastern corner of the district from the Slatington-Walnutport bridge, before making a ninety-degree turn to the south one block beyond Second Street. Thereafter Main Street follows a north-south pattern to the district's southern boundary. Other streets run parallel and perpendicular to Main Street and between many of the streets are unnamed alleys. Moving from north to south, the following streets and alleys run in an east-west direction within the district: Iron and Ridge Alleys, North Street, Sell Alley, Main Street, Dowell Street, Short Alley, Church Street, Centre Avenue (little more than an alley), Kite Alley, Franklin Street, Ash Avenue (also little more than an alley), Snyder Alley, Washington Street, Ruch Alley, South Street, Kern Street and Ridge Alley. From east to west, the following run in a north-south direction: Railroad and Walnut Streets, Vine Alley, Hill Street, Fairview and Park Avenue, First Street, Chestnut Alley, Second Street, Middle Alley, Main Street, Long Alley, Fourth Street, Oak Alley, and Fifth and Sixth Streets. All streets in the district are paved. Some historic slate sidewalks are extant and enhance the overall historic character of the district. Sidewalks are found on both sides of most streets and parking is permitted in nearly all areas of the district. Street lighting employs modern cobra-head fixtures powered by overhead lines throughout the district and traffic signals are found along Main Street

<sup>2</sup>The term, "vernacular," when used in this context, conforms to the definition which appears in Ward Bucher's **Dictionary of Building Preservation**: a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training; often based on traditional or regional forms."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Slatington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

Section Number 7 Page 3

(Photos 1, 3-6, 8).

In the central business district portion of the Slatington Historic District (Photos 6-10; Fig. 7), most buildings occupy their entire lots, with no front or side lot setbacks. Some commercial properties have paved parking areas along the rear of their lots. Institutional buildings, represented primarily by several churches, typically have setbacks on all sides and may include lawns, planting areas, or paved parking. Landscaping throughout the district includes residential lawns both large and small and many streets with mature shade trees. Two large noncontributing public housing buildings (Resource Nos. 49 and 533) are in the district; one is at corner where Main Street makes a sharp turn and the other is adjacent to the site of the Slatington High School (not extant) east of Second Street. Among the significant natural features of the district is Trout Creek, which flows through a portion of the northeastern reaches of the district and is spanned by the 1901 Morgan Memorial Bridge (Resource No. 42; Photo 26; Fig. 2, 5; George Opliners, engineer). It was along this waterway that Nicholas Kern's c. 1845 sawmill and grist mill (not extant) were located and marked the beginning of settlement in the area that would become Slatington. Trout Creek divides the community into the neighborhoods locally known as "upper" Slatington--south of Trout Creek--and "lower" Slatington--north of the creek. The topography rises significantly between "lower" Slatington and "upper" Slatington, hence the names. The community's earliest settlement occurred in lower Slatington. The buildings dating from the period of initial settlement of the community are not extant; most of the earliest properties in the district are stone buildings dating from the 1820s. One c. 1850 stone industrial building in lower Slatington (32 Factory Street; Resource No. 36) was associated with the predominate nineteenth-century slate mantle industry in the community.

The buildings in the district are of a conventional rectilinear form; some churches and private residences exhibit rounded bays. Frontages of the individual buildings range upward from approximately twenty feet. The commercial buildings are generally flat-roofed or have shed roofs which slope gently from front to back. Some historic chimneys have been retained, but most have been removed in the course of retrofitting heating systems and replacing roofs. Most of the buildings in the district rest on substantial foundations of brick and stone; both rock-faced and smooth-dressed concrete block and structural tile were employed for the foundations of some buildings built after the beginning of the twentieth century. Most residential buildings in the district are gabled-, pyramidal-, hipped-, and gambrel-roofed (Photos 1-4, 11-12, 15, 25, 27, 28, 30); the few French Second Empire-style buildings



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Statington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA**

Section Number 7 Page 4

century slaters.

in the district exhibit the Mansard roof which is characteristic of the style. Institutional architecture employs hipped and gabled roofs. During much of the period of significance, roofs were clad in slate, often installed in decorative patterns. Many properties retain historic slate roofs and while others have been re-roofed with asphalt shingles, nearly all of the district's Queen Anne-style turrets and towers retain their original slate cladding—testimony to the nearly lost skills of nineteenth- and early twentieth-

The majority of the district developed during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century

(Fig. 9, 10) and most buildings are punctuated by tall and narrow patterns of fenestration. Art glass, both religious and secular, is found throughout the district. Art glass includes both lavish and modest residential applications, prism-glass transoms on commercial buildings, and religious art glass in the district's seven churches.

The architectural styles represented in the Statington Historic District include most of the design modes popular during the district's long period of significance. The vast majority of the community's vernacular settlement architecture was replaced by significantly more substantial architecture as the community matured. The district's earliest extant buildings (Resource Nos. 18, 31, 43, 115, and 119); Photos 27, 28, 30) date from the first through the fourth decades of the nineteenth century; most of these are associated with Statington's pioneer Kern family and all are vernacular in character. The earliest building in the district is the stone barn (Resource No. 43) erected in 1807 by John Kern (1777-1851); with the 1894 opening of Diamond Street, the western portion of the barn was removed and replaced by a timber framed gable end.

Many buildings in the district are derived from no formal architectural style, but rather reflect the vernacular building traditions of this community throughout the period of significance. These vernacular buildings contribute significantly to the broad-based architectural character of the district as a whole.

The Greek Revival style was little-used in Statington and appears only in stylistic references on the residences at 239 and 801 Main Street (Resource Nos. 10 and 151, respectively). The Italianate style was the first formal design mode to enjoy popularity in the wake of the birth of the burgeoning slate industry in the 1840s. Most Italianate-style architecture in the district lies along Main Street (Photos 6-10) and is of a commercial character, including the c. 1850 McKenna Building at 560 Main Street,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Slatington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

Section Number 7 Page 5

624-666 and 632-666 Main Street, 658 and 662 Main Street (Resource Nos. 52, 58, 59, 62, and 63, respectively). The Italianate style was followed by buildings built in the French Second Empire, Gothic, and Late Gothic Revival, Italian Villa, Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical and Colonial Revival styles. Italian Villa design in Slatington is limited to four substantial buildings which embrace eclectic principles of design but are capped by Italian Villa-style belvederes, including the 1850 Neff House hotel at 700 Main Street (Resource No.65), the property at 306 East Church Street (Resource No. 240), the Thomas Kern House at 908 Main Street (Photo 3; Resource No. 86), and the house at 61 Dowell Street (Resource No. 196), which includes a belvedere atop the flat upper surface of a Mansard roof. This stylistic device may represent the work of an unidentified local architect or builder.

The Gothic Revival style appears in the Slatington Historic district both in domestic and ecclesiastic design from the 1850s through the 1890s. The district's myriad double houses (Photos 18, 23, 25) reflect vernacular adaptations of the Gothic Revival style in the steeply-pitched gables which dominate their facades. These constitute the most prevalent building type found along Slatington's residential streets, and are typically of wood construction with laterally-oriented gable-roots which are penetrated by a steeply pitched center gable or paired gables on the facade. Representative examples of this design and house type appear in the properties at 846-848, 1026-1028, and 1039-1041 Main Street, 49-51 North Street, 531-533 and 542-544 East Church Street, 447-449 and 451-453 West Church Street, and the adjacent properties at 640-642, 632-634, 624-626 and 628-620 West Franklin Street (81, 93, 129, 184, 224, 229, 254, 255, 259, 260, 261, 262, and 263, respectively. Religious Gothic Revival-style design includes the First Baptist Church of 1900 at the corner of Main and Second Street (Resource No. 45; Figs. 5, 6), the United Church of Christ on Fourth Street (Resource No. 444), St. John's Lutheran Church on Second Street (Resource No. 488), Trinity Church (Photo 13), also on Second Street (Resource No. 508) and the former church building at 323 Second Street (Photo 14; Resource No. 521).

The French Second Empire style, with its distinctive Mansard roof, is represented in the district by the homes of business and community leaders, including owners and managers of several of the slate quarries in the immediate environs. Among these are the aforementioned Neff House hotel at 700 Main Street (Photo 5), the Thomas Kern House at 908 Main Street (Photo 3), 751 and 701 Main Street, 61 Dowell Street, 65 Second Street (with a 1920s porch), and the "Billy Neff Apartments" at 105 Second Street (Photo 11; Resource Nos. 65, 86, 152, 157, 196, 502, and 503, respectively).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Stanton Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

The local slate industry was booming by the 1880s when the Queen Anne style was gaining in popularity. Local adaptations of this style incorporate a varied surface treatment and a lively profile, nearly always punctuated by a round or octagonal tower with a steeply-pitched slate-clad conical roof. Art glass windows often appear in homes of this style within the district and may include both stylized art glass motifs and multi-light colored glass windows which are typical of this late nineteenth-century design mode. Queen Anne-style design (Photos 1, 2, 12, 26, 27) appears in the Stanton Historic District in the Henry Bittner House at 231 Main Street, 321 Main Street, the Alfred J. Kern House at 404 Main Street, the Henry Kuntz House at 370 Main Street, 554 Main Street, the Moose Lodge on Main Street, the James Haines House at 722 Main Street, 750, 888, 1050, 1108, 1116, 1152, 1201 Main Street (Resource Nos. 9, 20, 25, 26, 51, 66, 67, 72, 84, 96, 99, 100, 104, and 120, respectively).

The Colonial Revival style was born of the fervor of patriotism in the wake of the American Centennial of 1876. Buildings executed in this style may faithfully reproduce Colonial-era architecture, or may simply borrow elements of the style, including frontispiece entrance and Palladian windows. Among the Colonial Revival-style architecture in the Stanton Historic District are the houses at 213 Main Street, 435 Main Street, 1105 Main Street (a side-passage home with gable dormers and quarter-round fans in the pediments of the gable ends), 309 East Franklin Street, 434 West Washington Street, 431 East Washington Street, 356 First Street, and 343 Park Street. (Resource No. 7, 44, 125, 279, 332, 353, 499, 546, and 559, respectively. The Colonial Revival-style house at 343 Park Avenue (Photo 21; Resource No. 559) occupies the single largest residential building lot in the district and includes a matching garage, all sited with a commanding overlook oriented toward the Lehigh River to the east.

The Dutch Colonial Revival, a twentieth-century design mode, incorporates a characteristic gambrel roof and appears in the residential neighborhoods of upper Stanton, both in single and double houses (Photos 17, 20). Representative examples include the properties at 543-545, 547-549, and 551-553 East Church Street, 666-668 and 300 West Franklin Street, 109-111 Fourth Street, and 209 Second Street (Resource Nos. 226, 227, 228, 257, 290, 422, and 509, respectively. This style also appears on gambrel-roofed 1920s garages located at 445-447 Second Street and 218 First Street (Resource Nos. 403 and 557, respectively).

The Neo-Classical Revival style draws-sometimes loosely--on design motifs from classical antiquity, and within the Stanton Historic District may embrace the use of applied ornament, as well as

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

State of Pennsylvania  
Lehigh County, PA

Section Number 7 Page 7

porches and porticos with classical columns and pilasters. This style is little-used in the district; the largest Neo-Classical Revival-style commercial building in the district is the Citizens Bank Building of 1930, located at Main and Second Streets (Resource No. 46). Domestic use of the Neo-Classical Revival style is limited to the home of Dr. Harry Kern at 856 Main Street (Resource No. 82).

The ubiquitous American Foursquare, essentially square in plan and usually incorporating a dormered pyramidal or hipped roof and a hipped-roof front porch, is found on several residential streets in upper Slatington. Foursquares in the district date from the 1910-1930 era, appear both in masonry and in wood, and in some cases employ a first story of masonry and a second story of wood. Representative examples of this style include the properties at 867 Main Street, 426 and 420 East Franklin Street, and 214 Fourth Street, in a double house at 230-232 Second Street (Resource Nos. 140, 284, 285, 443, and 478, respectively).

As noted in the introductory paragraph, the Slatington Historic District retains historic and

architectural integrity. The overall character of the district is intact and represents the community throughout its nearly 150-year-long period of significance. Some demolition has occurred in the business district (including the 1990s loss of the former high school at the corner of Main and Church Streets; Fig. 6) and newer buildings, including banks and convenience stores, appear on corners which formerly contained historic commercial architecture. Alterations to buildings within the Slatington Historic District include storefront renovations in the downtown area along with the application of non-historic siding and the installation of replacement windows in the most portions of the district. Slate roofs, reflecting the product that made the community, have been replaced with asphalt, but it is not an exaggeration to state that more slate roofs have been retained here than in typical districts. Some homes reflect the removal of historic porches and trim. These alterations are widely dispersed throughout the district and do not detract significantly from the ability of the nominated area to reflect its appearance throughout the period of significance. Most non-contributing resources are buildings erected following the 1807-1953 Period of Significance of the district; the extent of alteration of some other properties has resulted in their loss of historic architectural integrity and the resulting treatment as non-contributing resources. Viewed in its entirety, the Slatington Historic District is an architecturally-cohesive residential and commercial area which is situated on a grid of streets in this northeastern Pennsylvania borough. The nominated area retains integrity and contains more than five hundred substantial historic buildings of residential, commercial, and institutional character dating

from the early decades of the nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Statington Historic District  
Lehigh County, PA

Section Number 8 Page 1

**8. Statement of Significance**

The Statington Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with *industry* and under Criterion C for *architecture*. With reference to Criterion A, the district—beginning with the name of the municipality—possesses close historical ties to the Pennsylvania slate industry, which produced roofing slate, blackboards, school slates, and mantles throughout more than one-half of the nineteenth century and into the early decades of the twentieth century. Under Criterion C, the district's more than 500 contributing buildings represent the range of domestic, commercial, and institutional design popular during the period of significance, which begins in 1807, the date of construction of the district's earliest extant building (Resource No. 43, the stone barn now associated with the house at 370 Main Street), and ends in 1953, corresponding to the 50-year guideline for National Register eligibility, by which time the district had assumed much of its present appearance. The district contains locally-distinctive examples of many of the styles of architecture popular from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. Along with formally-designed homes are vernacular adaptations of many of the individual design modes as well as examples of purely vernacular architecture, which, although executed without reference to formal design tenets, are nonetheless the significant manifestations of local building traditions in Lehigh County.

In the late 1730s, Nicholas Kern entered the area where the "Warrior's Path" crossed the Lehigh River, which in those days was known as the west branch of the Delaware River. Kern built the first house in the area, a log home (not extant) which he erected in 1741 at the present-day intersection of Main and Diamond Streets on the present site of the 1890s Benjamin Kern house (Resource No. 25). Four years later he built a grist and saw mill on Trout Creek (not extant). The mill became known variously as Kern's Mill or Trucker's Mill, and early accounts, including a 1756 report from Benjamin Franklin to Governor Morris, referred to timber and boards emanating from Kern's or Trucker's.<sup>3</sup> For much of the next three-quarters of a century, the Kerns were virtually the only settlers in the area; by 1850 the pioneer families in the settlement included John Kern and his son Jonas, who had been joined by Henry Kuntz and Robert McDowell.

In the last decade of the eighteenth century, significant reserves of anthracite coal were discov-

<sup>3</sup>The term "Trucker's" is said to be of German derivation and refers to Kern, who was known for his humor. The term is reported to have been a corruption of the work "trockener," referring to a joker or wit.