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ered at Summit Hill, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was established to develop a system for moving the coal down the unpredictable and treacherous Lehigh and Delaware Rivers to Philadelphia. Early in the nineteenth century the Lehigh Navigation (commonly referred to as the Lehigh Canal), consisting of a series of locks, dams, and canals, was constructed along the Lehigh River to enable the transportation of coal from the upper Lehigh Valley to Easton, on the Delaware. By 1820 the canal system was completed to navigate from the present site of Jim Thorpe, (formerly Mauch Chunk) eastward to Easton. The canal was located on the opposite side of the Lehigh River from the eventual site of Slatington, passing instead through the community of Walnutport. A chain bridge upstream at the Lehigh Gap provided the only crossing of the river. It would be more than thirty years later, in 1854, that a covered bridge would be erected to cross the Lehigh River between the Kern settlement and Walnutport.

By the 1840s it was becoming evident that canaling would not meet fully the needs of the northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite fields. In 1846, the Delaware, Lehigh, Schuylkill, & Susquehanna Railroad was established. The name was changed to the Lehigh Valley Railroad in 1853, and in 1856 the line extended along the west side of the Lehigh to the future site of Slatington, which for a time during these years was known as "Liberty." A depot and hotel were erected in the settlement; these buildings were outside the district and are not extant. In addition to the Lehigh, by the turn of the twentieth century Slatington was served by the Philadelphia and Reading, the Lehigh and New England, and the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

The unincorporated settlement was known variously as Kern's Mill, Kernsport, and Liberty. The earliest post office serving the area was located at Craig's Store at the Lehigh Gap upriver from the area that would become Slatington. Increased postal volume, likely due to the discovery of slate, indicated a need for regular postal service and in 1851 the first post office was established at the settlement. Names were suggested for the post office, including "Waverly," but a post office of that name already existed in Lackawanna County, and the name "Slatington" was agreed upon.

The mid-1840s and early 1850s saw the sylvan character of the area significantly changed with the discovery of rich deposits of slate nearby. The first local slate operation began in 1845 with the quarry owned by Owen Jones and William Roberts on land leased from Jonas Kern and located north of the Kern mill, outside the nominated area. Their Tunnel Quarry produced roofing slate and was

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in the late 1870s.

joined in 1847 by the operation which would become the Lehigh Slate Company and later Bachman Brothers, producers of slate mantels and slate slabs. In 1862, the Riverside Quarry was opened, followed in 1863 by David Williams' company which by 1884 reached an annual capacity of 1,300,000 school slates. Williams (1823-1893) contributed significantly to the growth of the settlement during the decades following the Civil War; among his holdings was an island in the Lehigh River east of the community (Fig. 10) and in addition to his extensive manufacturing life, he also served as Burgess⁴

No fewer than twenty slate quarries developed in and around the unincorporated village (Fig. 9, 10). None are extant within the district, but the district's close ties to the industry grew from its proximity to the quarries and natural outcroppings of slate can be seen throughout the district. Within the eventual borough boundaries were four quarries: the Washington Quarry was established in 1885 and employed from sixty to one hundred, the Cambridge Quarry (1895) had a force of forty to fifty, the Pennsylvania quarry was opened in 1895 with a force of forty to fifty, and the Valley Side Quarry (1912), with fifteen to twenty workers. The quarries are not included within the district due to their distance from the district and to the character of the resources lying between the district and the quarries. However, the homes of the quarry workers and owners alike remain in the district and contribute significantly to its overall character. Notable example of owners' homes include the residences of brothers Alvin and James Haines at First and Church Street and 722 Main Street, respectively, Arthur Kraus at 404 East Franklin Street, Henry Kuntz at 370 Main Street, David D. Roper at 120 Second Street, and Llewellyn Williams at 123 Main Street, respectively (Resource Nos. 67, 241, 286, 26, 485, and 2, respectively)

The earliest development of the community occurred along what is known as "lower" Main Street, between Trout Creek and the Lehigh River (Fig. 1). The first dwellings, of log, were built there, and were eventually joined by more substantial and permanent buildings, including the 1824 stone home/tavern of George Kern at 332 Main Street (Resource No. 31) and the stuccoed stone and brick Jonas Kern tavern/general store of c. 1830 at 356-362 Main Street (Resource No. 27).

The 1844 discovery of slate brought about increased growth to the community. Additional land for development was platted in "upper" Slatington in 1851 by Daniel D. Jones and Robert McDowell

⁴The equivalent of mayor of a Borough during this period of municipal government in Pennsylvania.

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(for whom Dowell Street was named and who became Slatington's first Burgess when the new Borough was incorporated in the 1860s). Lower Slatington was settled primarily by the Kerns and their descendants, while the area southwest of Trout Creek, known as upper Slatington, was settled largely by members of the Remeley family. Ambrose Remeley had emigrated to America in 1749 with land warrants for several hundred acres, part of which became upper Slatington. His son, Michael, had at least eight children and his grandson, Charles, built the earliest extant building in the upper Slatington portion of the district, an 1842 log house located at 1217 Main Street (Resource No. 119). Other Remeley homes in the district include the George Remeley House at 1010 Main Street (Resource No. 91) and the hotel erected by John Remeley at 700 Main Street (Resource No. 65).

By 1860 the local population had grown to about 500. As the settlement blossomed, a movement grew to partition a new municipality from unincorporated Washington Township. In 1864 a petition was delivered to the Lehigh County Court seeking the incorporation of the town, which by this time had shed its earlier Kernsport name as Slatington. The Court issued a decree of incorporation on September 7, 1864 and the Borough of Slatington was born. During the 1864-1865 winter the borough was surveyed by A. J. Hauman and the property lines and street grades were established and depicted on a map which he published in 1866. The Borough Council met in a variety of venues including a state company office, the community armory, and in a business block, until 1889 when a borough hall was erected at the corner of Third and Church Streets (Resource No. 249).

A variety of local industries joined the slate industry in Slatington. These plants were located outside the nominated area but contributed significantly to the economic and institutional growth and development of the community. The homes of their workers and managers were found throughout the district. Many of these industries lay along the Lehigh Valley Railroad, east of the district. Among these were the Slatington Rolling Mill, which was established in 1890 to produce bar iron, and several textile mills which employed a significant number of workers throughout the last half-century of the district's period of significance. These operations produced a variety of knitted and woven products including hosiery, hats, gloves, leg warmers, handkerchiefs, mens' and boys' neckware, and filler for mattresses. Some of these factories are extant, but most have been altered significantly and all in areas remote from the district. As technology grew, the Slatington textile mills shifted from natural to synthetic fabrics.

The earliest commercial life of the community, prior to the plating of upper Slatington in the

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1850s, was centered in lower Slatington. Few remnants of this era remain; the Kern barn behind the Henry Kuntz House at 370 Main Street carries a date of 1807, making it the earliest extant building in the district. Jonas Kern's c. 1830 tavern at 356-362 Main Street (Resource No. 27) is among the district's earliest commercial buildings and Benjamin Kern's American House hotel of 1869 (Resource No. 17) dates from the period spanning the heyday of lower Slatington and the rise of upper Slatington. As upper Slatington began to develop immediately prior to the Civil War, commercial buildings of wood and brick rose along Main Street. Most of the earliest commercial buildings were replaced by more substantial properties, generally of brick construction and Italianate in stylistic derivation (Fig. 8, 9). The Neff House (Resource No. 65) at 700 Main Street is one of upper Slatington's earliest commercial buildings. It was erected in 1849 as a hotel for John Remaley, who christened it the Remaley House; in 1869 it was acquired by Edward B. Neff, who renamed it. The first municipal elections of the newly-created Borough of Slatington occurred at the Remaley House in 1864.

As the last quarter of the nineteenth century progressed--concomitant with the prospering of the slate industry--substantial commercial buildings rose on both sides of upper Main Street between the ninety-degree turn and Church Street. Among the district's most prominent commercial properties are the McKenna Building at 556 Main Street, the early, though altered, commercial building of Robert McDowell at 560 Main Street, along with 624-626 and 632-636 Main Street, the Haines Building at 650 Main Street, 658, 662, 647, 623 Main Street (Resource No. 52, 54, 58, 59, 62, 63, 162, and 164, respectively). Many of the local slate companies had their offices on the upper stories of these commercial buildings, including the J. K. Hower Slate Co. and the Meadow Brook Slate Company, with offices in the McKenna Building at 556 Main Street (Resource No. 52) and the Haines family's Provident, Blue Vain, Washington, and Vendor slate companies, whose offices were in the Haines Building, 650 Main Street (Resource No. 61).

As Slatington matured and flourished with the slate industry in the last decades of the nineteenth century, a solid residential neighborhood developed on both sides of Main Street in upper Slatington (Figs. 4, 7). This neighborhood became home to business and community leaders, merchants, manufacturers, and workers alike. Speculative building on the part of capitalists was likely the reason for the seemingly endless repetition of the use of the duplex house type, typically appearing with a laterally-oriented gable roof, one or two gables on the facade, and a front porch.

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The community had become generally self-sufficient as the nineteenth century closed. At the turn of the twentieth century Stanton claimed an optician, wallpaperhangers and painters, six physicians, photographers, several restaurants, a stationer, two telephone exchanges, five tailors, six hotels, two laundries, three meat markets, seven milliners, five purveyors of "boots, shoes, and gents' furnishings," six barbers, bakers, four tobacconists, three druggists, eleven retainers of dry goods, groceries and general merchandise, six grocers, three dentists, two funeral directors, a florist, five hardware stores, and three jewelers. In addition, the following industries and manufacturers drove the local economy: hosiery manufacturers, an iron works, a lumber and planing mill, four machinists, a brass foundry, two blacksmiths, a box manufacturer, two coal suppliers, a carriage builder, a furniture maker, a purveyor of dynamite and powder, and, naturally, slate quarries and producers of school slates, blackboards, roofing slate, sink tops, electrical and structural slate, and mantles. Most of the retail concerns were likely located within the commercial areas of the district; the manufacturers and quarries were found the district.

Three banks served the community during the period of significance: the Dime Bank opened in 1868 but failed in a "panic" during the 1870s; the National Bank of Stanton was established in 1875 and the Citizen's National Bank opened in 1902. In addition to the district's commercial banks, several building and loan associations operated in the district. The only extant historic bank building in the district is the 1930 Citizens Bank at 502 Main Street.

The early decades of the twentieth century witnessed the replacement of various of the district's early properties with newer commercial buildings. Typical of this trend is the 1930 replacement of the 1902 Citizens National Bank building with a Neo-Classical Revival-style stone building.

Stanton's commercial and industrial growth and maturity was joined by religious and secular institutional growth as the community grew. Presbyterians in upper Stanton worshiped in private homes until 1855 when a church was erected on the north end of Main Street. It was replaced in 1874 by a new building which late in the twentieth century was razed for a multi-family high-rise apartment building (Resource No.49). Among the community's other early religious buildings was a union church (not extant) built in 1869 on Second Street south of Main Street. Several historic churches are found within the district. Stanton Baptists first worshiped in 1859 as part of the Williamstown Baptist Mission. In 1891 the congregation split from the Mission and began meeting in Stanton in Fritz-

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inger's Hall; unfortunately five weeks after the Baptists rented the hall, the building was destroyed by fire. A new Gothic Revival-style Baptist Church (Resource No. 494) was built at the corner of Second and Main Streets and was dedicated in 1900. St John's Lutheran Church (Resource No. 488) is an 1881 Gothic Revival-style brick church also located on Church Street. The United Church of Christ (Resource No. 444) is a Gothic Revival-style wood church built in 1883. The Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church (Resource No. 508) is a Gothic Revival-style brick church located on Second Street.

A local military organization was formed in Slatington in 1875, under the leadership of Capt. David G. Rhoads. It was mustered into service as Rifles Co. H, 4th Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania. Company H was called into service at the time of the Reading Riot of 1877 and also traveled to western Pennsylvania in the wake of the infamous Homestead Riot of 1892. The organization was disbanded in 1896.

The public safety of the Borough was addressed by three volunteer fire companies. The earliest, Slatington Hose Co. No. 1, was organized in 1885, supplied initially by only be a carriage and hose which in 1890 were augmented by a steamer and a hook-and-ladder truck. In 1903, Vigilant No. 2 company was organized with a combination wagon including a hose and chemical engine. Neither of these two companies is represented in the district. Springside Co. No. 3 was organized in 1909 with a building (Resource No. 121) at 1121 Main Street in upper Slatington. In 1910, Hose Co. No. 1 erected a fountain (Resource No. 51; NR 1981) at the curve of Main Street in upper Slatington. A local historical publication described it as representing

the figure of a fireman with a lantern suspended from his right hand and a little child resting confidently on his left arm, which symbolizes in a most expressive manner [both] vigilance and humanity, two prominent characteristics of their protective association.

Organized public education in Slatington began at the William Kern mill (not extant) in 1820 but was of a short duration. A school was established in 1858 by the Washington Township school directors who rented the Welsh Congregational Church. In 1868 the school directors acquired a lot at the corner of Main and Second Street in upper Slatington and built the first of several school buildings on that site. The latest of these was a 1916 brick building (Fig. 5) built as Slatington High School and used as such until a new high school was erected outside the district. The 1916 building became

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a junior high school and was in use until its abandonment in the 1990s; it was razed shortly thereafter and its site remains vacant. No education-related properties are extant within the district boundaries; the high school presently serving Slatington is associated with a jointure and is located north of the district.

The heyday of Slatington and the Slatington Historic District was between the 1880 and 1890s, when many of the district's buildings were erected, and the close of the period of significance at the end of the first half of the twentieth century. The community's textile industries remained in operation at the end of the district's period of significance but were soon supplanted by foreign importation of goods. The slate industry waned with changes in architectural taste and the introduction of synthetic materials. Slate mantles fell from fashion early in the twentieth century and were no longer used by designers and homebuilders. The use of slate in schools lasted considerably longer, but declined as new products were developed. Writing in 1941, Benjamin Leroy Miller noted, "Lehigh County has the distinction of being the only county in the United States where school slates are now being manufactured . . . the disuse of individual school slates in the public schools has caused the contraction of the industry to its present condition." The advent of asbestos and composition shingle roofing material impacted negatively on the roofing slate industry, and while some quarries remained open at the close of the period of significance, the role of slate in Slatington was never the same.

Viewed in the context of the region, the Slatington Historic District can be compared with several nearby communities, some of which were also associated with the slate industry. The settlement of Emerald, located immediately west of Slatington, is an unincorporated working-class village of generally small-scale and unremarkable wood homes with only a few larger properties suggesting that they may have been managers' residences. A linear settlement with no business district, Emerald depended on Slatington for its commercial needs. Leigh Furnace is a hamlet of about a dozen architecturally undistinguished properties without any commercial center. Slatedale, also a slate town, is located west of Slatington and includes some agricultural lands within its boundaries. Slatedale's domestic design incorporates a variety of architecture ranging from early stone buildings to ranch-style homes, with a small concentration of historic properties within the core of the community, including one early log and stone house and others which recall the repetitive house types found in Slatington. Also within Slatedale is a large imoperative slate quarry.

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The communities of Pen Argyl and Bangor, in adjacent Northampton County, are two other "slate belt" communities which bear comparison to Slatington. Pen Argyl's architectural inventory includes the center-gable house type seen throughout Slatington, although not the degree seen in Slatington; Pen Argyl also features dozens of homes with retained slate roofs. The central business district of Pen Argyl is considerably smaller than is that of Slatington, does not enjoy the architectural diversity of Slatington, and exhibits a larger degree of new construction and insensitive alteration than is seen in Slatington. Bangor was established a decade after Slatington; it possesses a comparable housing stock to Slatington and retains native slate roofing of many properties. Like Slatington, Downtown Bangor is architecturally-similar to downtown Slatington and is also bisected by a small waterway. Unlike Slatington, some relatively recent demolition has occurred in downtown Bangor, evidenced by several vacant lots and a large "big box" drug store immediately adjacent to the downtown. Bangor's downtown includes several slate-fronted stone buildings, which Slatington cannot claim. The residential stock of Bangor includes several residential properties of larger scale than is found in Slatington, homes whose level of sophistication suggests that they were architect-designed. Both Bangor and Pen Argyl have abandoned and unreclaimed slate quarries immediately outside the town.

Walnutport, located across the Lehigh River from Slatington, is considerably less densely built-up than is Slatington and its commercial area is limited to a modern strip development at the intersection of Main Street and State Route 145. Associated with the Delaware and Lehigh Canal, Walnutport's older properties are of stone and brick and lie in close proximity to the canal; some of these have been clad in non-historic siding.

Lehighon, about ten miles northwest of Slatington, is organized around a public square in the heart of the business district. Downtown Lehighon, however, has been negatively impacted by the construction of a large modern drug store in the midst of the downtown and the "slipcovering" of historic commercial buildings. Like Slatington, Lehighon has a high-rise residential building in the downtown, but because of its siting and eleven-story height, Lehighon's high-rise building is more intrusive to the character of the downtown than is Slatington's. The residential areas of Lehighon contain repetitive house types similar to Slatington, but do not enjoy the minimally-impaired integrity possessed by Slatington's neighborhoods.

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The city of Bethlehem, southeast of Slatington is considerably larger than Slatington and has the Fountain Hill Historic District and the Mt. Airy Historic District; Slatington is essentially a small-town district, and the various residential and commercial districts in Bethlehem are of a considerably more urban scale and character. The National Register district at Jim Thorpe, in Carbon County to the northwest, is considerably smaller and more compact than is Slatington's and is more significantly defined by its topography. The commercial center within the Jim Thorpe district is densely developed and lies along a comparatively narrow Main Street, while the Slatington district encompasses not only the community's central business district but also a substantial adjacent nineteenth- and twentieth-century residential neighborhood.

The Slatington Historic District is clearly a significant representative of the prosperity which was born of slate extraction in east-central Pennsylvania. The district retains its historic architectural integrity and contains examples of many of the styles of design which were popular during its 130-year-long period of significance.

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