

**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.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 4216 Countryside Lane

not for publication N/A

city or town Lower Saucon Township

vicinity N/A

state Pennsylvania

code PA

county Northampton

code 095

zip code 18015

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government \_\_\_\_\_

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 Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	_____	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	Objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	_____	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Educational Resources of Pennsylvania

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Foundation stone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

walls stone

Roof slate

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 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

C. Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Period of Significance

1880—1901

### Significant Dates

1880

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect / Builder

Unknown

### 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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### 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:

Lower Saucon Township

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** approximately 1 acre

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	476315	4497140	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 Robert J. Wise Jr., Principal, Seth Hinshaw, Sr. Planner  
organization Wise Preservation Planning date 4/1/2008  
street & number 1480 Hilltop Road telephone (484) 202-8187  
city or town Chester Springs state Pa. zip code 19425

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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 Lower Saucon Township  
street & number 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike telephone (610) 865-3291  
city or town Bethlehem state PA zip code 18015

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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse

Name of property

Northampton County, Pennsylvania

County and State

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The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is a one-story, one-room rectangular stone former schoolhouse with a belfry. Its architectural features reflect the Late Victorian era. Built in 1880, it is the only intact 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse in Lower Saucon Township. The schoolhouse is architecturally intact on both the exterior and interior, and today it is a museum. It sits on an open acre of land at 4216 Countryside Lane in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The property is just north of the intersection of Countryside Lane and Limpar Lane in the northeast corner of the Township. The parcel slopes downward in the north or rear of the property; it retains its open space surrounding the schoolhouse and its woodland to the west. The surrounding landscape is mainly hilly, rural farmland.

### Schoolhouse – Exterior

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is a one-story, three-bay, front-end gabled Late Victorian style building facing generally southsouthwest. It is a typical mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse. It features a prominent belfry over the main entrance and a rectangular footprint measuring 32'x38'. Its gabled roof is clad with rectangular slate shingles and has a molded cornice with returns on the end walls. The belfry is located near the front (south) end; it is a square element with a low pyramidal roof capped with a simple weathervane and featuring louvers on the walls around an interior bell. A small brick chimney is located near the northeast end of the ridge.

The walls of the schoolhouse are rubble stone. The main elevation has two 9x6 double hung windows with lip lintels and sills, flanking the entrance porch. Two 4-light attic windows flank a datestone reading "Franklin School, Rebuilt 1880." The datestone, which also features quarter-circles in its corners, is centered over the entry porch. The porch, added in 1901, consists of a slate-clad shed roof featuring ovolo-shaped, exposed rafter tails. The porch roof is supported on the southwest end by four Queen Anne spindle-like posts attached by gingerbread brackets and two half-posts adjacent to the wall surface. The porch has a rubble stone foundation. [Note: During recent renovation work, it was discovered that the original stone steps remain in place under the porch.] The main entrance on the porch consists of a two-light transom over a four-paneled wooden door. The door has two arched-headed upper panels over two smaller lower panels; all panels feature thick Italianate molding.

The side walls of the schoolhouse have four original 9x6 double hung windows with three-paneled shutters, arranged symmetrically. Most shutters retain their original hardware, including holdbacks, bolts, and eyes. The side walls and northeast end wall

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have basement windows: one on the northwest façade and two each on the northeast end wall and the southeast side.

**Interior – School Room**

The interior consists of a single intact classroom on the main floor. An attic and basement, both unfinished, complete the interior. The schoolhouse does not have interior bathrooms or coatrooms. Most interior fabric is historic if not original, including the windows, shades, blackboard, and flooring. Other interior elements, such as the pictures on the wall, schoolbooks, and closets, are remnants from the school days but may not date to the time of construction.

The one-room school space is remarkably intact, with the original school desks occupying the center of the room, facing the blackboard, original heater, and teacher's desk. The ceiling and walls are plastered, with wainscoting extending up four feet along the walls. The 12-foot high ceiling is hung from the rafters, which provides a clearspan school room without the need for interior columns. The blackboard along the north (front) wall extends across most of the wall surface. Built-in closets are located in the corners flanking the blackboard. Corner cabinets on the opposite wall were installed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The room has narrow wood flooring running east to west.

The front of the room is the location of the original stove and the teacher's desk. The stove is a cast iron "Buffalo Fresh Air Heater" which sits inside a metal cover intended to prevent students from touching the hot surface (a common element in one room schools). Original tools used for stoking the stove hang on hooks in the wall behind the stove. The original school furniture remains in place. The teacher's desk near the northeast corner of the room has a slanted top over three drawers. Two long recitation benches in front of the blackboard divide the students' seating area from the front of the room. The recitation benches are long benches with high backs and cast iron legs. The benches and desks are bolted onto runners, which provide bracing and make them easy to move. Behind the recitation benches are five rows of school desks. The desks are arranged with the smaller desks to the west (near the heater) and the larger ones to the east. Their hinged desktops have a groove for holding pencils and holes for inkwells. Many cast iron frames of the desks include information on the different manufacturers. The desks are period furniture of the school.

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**Attic**

The attic is reached by a ceiling hatch located above the classroom entrance. It is an unfinished space, with exposed rafters and plank flooring. The attic has 18 3"x5" rafters nailed together at the tip without a ridge board. The rafters are connected by collar beams which are pegged into the rafters. On the north end, the brick chimney appears to have been rebuilt in kind in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main structural feature of the attic is a large A-frame truss designed to support the classroom ceiling and thus produce a freespan classroom space below. The truss consists of two angled braces attached at the tip just under the ridge; an iron pole connected to the junction of the two timber braces is attached at the base to the attic's summer beam. The attic floor is wide, random width hardwood planks.

A second truss system supports the weight of the bell in the belfry. A heavy summer beam-like horizontal timber spans the breadth of the attic space near the front (south) wall. Two heavy horizontal timbers span the distance between the stone side walls and the heavy timber to support the belfry's framing system. Two heavy angled timbers are anchored into the heavy horizontal timber and are attached at the tips to an iron pin, which in turn is attached to the timber. A moveable ladder resting along the south wall of the attic is used to access the belfry and bell.

**Basement**

The basement is accessed through a trap door in the floor just east of the classroom entrance (under a moveable glass display cabinet). Rebuilt steps (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) lead down to the east. A stone wall running the length of the building divides the basement into two narrow spaces; a doorway five feet in width is located near the center of the stone partition wall. Fifteen joists run from the partition wall to the end walls, supporting the flooring above; some joists are rough-hewn, while others are later, sawn joists (dating to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century). The joists are 5'6" above the gravel basement floor.

**Integrity**

The schoolhouse has a high degree of integrity, based upon the seven qualities defined by the National Park Service: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The schoolhouse meets the location quality, as it has not been relocated. The design of the building has not been altered since the porch was rebuilt in 1901. The setting remains much as it did during the time it was in use as a schoolhouse, with fields north and east of the building and woods to the west. Interstate 78 is located west of the building, with its closest approach being 450 feet away. It is not

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visible due to topography and trees. Regarding materials, the historic fabric is mostly original; some fabric was replaced in kind during the restoration campaign in 2004-2006, such as rebuilding of the porch, touching up the plastering of the walls and ceiling, and in-kind replacement of some damaged woodwork and sills. The workmanship of the building has not been altered, since the few alterations involved replacement in-kind of damaged fabric. The historic feeling and association of the property are remarkable; both the exterior and interior exude a sense of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century one-room schoolhouse.



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Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse  
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### Statement of Significance

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, is significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture. The Period of Significance begins with construction of the school in 1880 and ends with the addition of the front porch in 1901. The architecture of the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse demonstrates the distinctive design characteristics of Late Victorian architecture and demonstrates the prevailing architectural trends for one-room schools during "The Long Progressive Era, 1867-1930." It meets the registration requirements for the property type One-Room Schoolhouse as described in the MPDF *Historic Educational Resources of Pennsylvania*.

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is the third building on the site. The earliest school dates to as early as 1783, when the property was deeded to a board of trustees. The earliest schoolhouse was replaced in 1827 by a larger stone building. The current schoolhouse was constructed in 1880 using the stone from the 1827 building.

#### First Schoolhouse 1740-1827 (Lutz School)

The first schoolhouse at this location was held in a log-built house of worship constructed for a Palatinate Lutheran congregation around 1740. The congregation worshipped there until 1756, but the school continued to use the building until 1827. The building was located on a 156-acre farm owned by William Allen, who sold the farm to Benedict Lutz (1735-1818) in 1768.

In 1783, Lutz sold the building on one acre to three school trustees.<sup>1</sup> The deed stated that the property was sold "To the only proper use and Behoof of the Inhabitants of Lower Saucon and Williams Townships aforesaid Professing the Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Religion for the use of a School and School master (and to no other use whatsoever)." Lutz sold the property to four "Trustees on Behalf of the Inhabitants of Lower Saucon and Williams Townships aforesaid professing the Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Religions." All four men were associated with the

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<sup>1</sup> The original deed is located in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection. The deed pre-dates the American Revolution, as it begins with a reference to King George of England, lined out before the deed was recorded. The original date of the deed is erased and replaced in different handwriting with "1783."

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Lutheran congregation formerly worshipping in the log building. The schoolhouse was part of a network of Lutheran schools in Northampton County and was used for Sunday School on weekends.<sup>2</sup>

### Second Schoolhouse 1827-1880 (Franklin School)

In 1826, Township voters elected a public school board to oversee the school in the "Lutzes schoolhouse," according to the certificate of election stored in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection. The new school board opened a public school and re-built the schoolhouse. The old German name of "Lutz School" was changed to "Franklin School." The shift away from a private German religious school and the re-naming of the building for Benjamin Franklin may have been associated with the romanticism of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The school board established a public school in the schoolhouse, replacing the private Lutheran school. It is not known if the earlier Lutheran School had already closed; similar shifts from private religious schools to public schools took place throughout the Commonwealth in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The shift preceded the Free Public School Act of 1834.<sup>3</sup>

The new public school board then demolished the earlier schoolhouse and built a new stone schoolhouse. It contracted with John Chrisman to conduct the work. In some of his receipts for completed work, dated 1827, Chrisman stated that the work was being done "for the frank lin Shoul hous." This is the earliest extant reference to the school as Franklin School. The second schoolhouse is thought to have been a polygonal-shaped stone building with a chimney in the center of the roof. It is believed to have been located southwest of the current building, near the property's entrance, where some minor historic fabric has been discovered from time to time. Local historians report the schoolhouse burned in 1879.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Karen Samuels, "Hartzels Linked to Township History," undated article; Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse Pa. Historic Resource Survey Form; Ethel I. Helms, "Historical Background of the Lutz Franklin School."

<sup>3</sup> *Two Hundred Years of Life in Northampton County, Pa.*, volume 6: "Basic Education in Northampton County," (Easton PA: Northampton County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 32. For more information on local tensions regarding the shift, see Deborah Hartwell, "History of Education in Saucon Valley," undated mss.

<sup>4</sup> Membership brochure, Lower Saucon Township Historical Society; Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse survey

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**Third Schoolhouse 1880-Present (Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse)**

The current schoolhouse was constructed in 1880 (datestone). The remaining 1827 schoolhouse fabric was dismantled; its stone was used to build the foundation and lower wall sections of the current building. The stone from the earlier schoolhouse is darker than the stonework forming the upper portion of the walls. When finished, the new Franklin School was similar in appearance to many other late 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouses in Lower Saucon Township. The only major alteration to the building took place in 1901 when the current porch was built (according to the school board minutes).

The Franklin School was a one-teacher school. Students sat at their desks, arranged by age. In an orderly rotation, students from each grade were called to the front recitation bench, where students would stand alone to answer questions about the day's lessons. The remaining students would study until that grade was called forward. The teacher appointed students to manage the heater and clean the building. The local school board decided when classes began, though each school was required to be in session a minimum of six hours a day. The school term lasted for six months.<sup>5</sup>

Grades 1 through 8 were held in the school until 1942. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the school had an average of 40 students. In 1942, the school closed for ten years. In 1952, the school district re-opened the Franklin School as a school for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the township. A student who kept a scrapbook of school events recorded that the school board had electricity installed in 1952.<sup>6</sup> In 1958, the school district closed all of its one-room schoolhouses. The school remained vacant for several decades. In 2003, after a proposal to move the building to the current school campus failed to materialize, the school district decided to sell the building. Since the earlier Lutheran school trustees never transferred the title of the property to the public schools, the school district and the Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church served as the Grantor, selling the property to Lower Saucon Township. The Lower Saucon Township

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form. No historic evidence appears to substantiate the local folklore that the 1827 building was polygonal in shape. It appears that in Lower Saucon, octagonal and hexagonal shapes dominated schoolhouse construction until the Public School Law of 1854. Due to the loss of the school board minutes, no contemporary document substantiates the local tradition that the 1827 schoolhouse burned in 1879.

<sup>5</sup> Lower Saucon School Board minutes, 1888-1895, passim.

<sup>6</sup> Sterling D. Weikheiser, a student during the school year 1952-1953, kept a scrapbook with events of the week. He mentioned the opening of the school again, the introduction of electricity, and other school-related activities. His scrapbook is in the Historical Society archives.

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Historical Society restored the building in 2004-2006 and now operates it as an educational museum.<sup>7</sup>

### Significance

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse was constructed at the time when Northampton County's school system was shifting from the earlier "common school era" (1818-1867) into the "long progressive era" of educational history (1867-1930). The superintendent of the Northampton County schools, B.F. Raesly, fostered a modernization in education throughout the county and helped local school boards construct new rectangular one-room schoolhouses to replace the earlier and smaller schoolhouses from the "common school era." The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is an important example of construction principles Raesly recommended in his annual reports.

Before Mr. Raesly was hired as superintendent, the most common schoolhouse plan in Lower Saucon Township was the polygonal school. These six-sided or eight-sided stone buildings with a central chimney were located throughout the township. Two of them are known to have replaced earlier log schoolhouses. Such polygonal schoolhouses were a common type in eastern Pennsylvania before 1854; while they were efficient to heat, they did not provide space for large blackboards which were introduced in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. No polygonal schoolhouses survive in Lower Saucon Township, and there are photographs just one – a hexagonal schoolhouse built in 1833 just west of Kunsman's Corner.<sup>8</sup>

The era of polygonal schoolhouses ended in 1855; schoolhouses constructed in the succeeding decades were rectangular in shape. After the passage of the Pennsylvania Common School Law of 1854,<sup>9</sup> state educational leaders held a conference in Harrisburg to discuss the construction of schoolhouses. The results of the conference were reproduced in the landmark book *Pennsylvania School Architecture: A Manual of Directions and Plans for Grading, Locating, Constructing, Heating, Ventilating, and*

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<sup>7</sup> Katie Bombico, "Restoration Stirs Memories of Former Students," printed in the *Express-Times* on 6/12/2006.

<sup>8</sup> "Exploring the Schools from our Past," in *The Look Back Again: The Newsletter of the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society*, Vol. 4, Issue 1 (Spring 2007), p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> The act was known as the Pennsylvania's Common School Law of 1854, not to be confused with the Public School Law of 1834 which established the common school system.

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*Furnishing Common School Houses.*<sup>10</sup> The standards set forth in the book prescribed schoolhouse forms which remained in use for the next two decades.

In Lower Saucon Township, the era of rectangular one-room schoolhouses began in 1855 and ended in 1890. The schools built during this time were one-story, three-bay buildings constructed either of stone or brick. Each had a front-end-gabled orientation, often with a belfry near the front end gable. Schools constructed during this era may be divided into two general periods. The differences, though subtle, revolve around the issue of ventilation. In the earlier period, schoolhouses had smaller windows, though the technology existed for larger windows. They were usually 4x4 or 6x6 double hung sash units. In addition, schoolhouses in the earlier period have a lower ceiling height than those constructed in the latter phase. The low ceiling height is particularly noticeable in the Leithsville School on Route 412 (constructed in 1866).

The shift in the design of schoolhouses in Lower Saucon Township took place during the tenure of B.F. Raesly as Northampton County Superintendent of Public Instruction. Raesly visited each school, evaluated the facilities, assessed the teachers, examined the educational approaches and textbooks, and sponsored a summer teacher "institute" for training. He coordinated policy between the local school boards and the Pennsylvania Superintendent of Public Instruction. His annual reports were printed as part of the state educational reports in even-numbered years.<sup>11</sup> Raesly took a particular interest in increased training of teachers and improving the educational environment for the students.

Raesly's interest in teacher training was consistent with the general educational movements in Pennsylvania of that time. He appears to have initiated the annual teacher training "institutes" in the county.<sup>12</sup> All teachers in Northampton County were required to attend these conferences under Raesly's guidance, at which college

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<sup>10</sup> Thomas H. Burrowes, *Pennsylvania School Architecture: A Manual of Directions and Plans for Grading, Locating, Constructing, Heating, Ventilating, and Furnishing Common School Houses* (Harrisburg: A. Boyd Hamilton, 1855). Designs for "ungraded rural schools" are found on pages 30 and 31.

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Northampton County Superintendent of Public Instruction, included in the *Annual Report of the [Pennsylvania] Superintendent of Public Instruction*, various years but particularly the 1880 annual report, pp. 136-137.

<sup>12</sup> The Hellertown School Board minutes of 7/2/1877 discussed institutes but indicated none had been held at that time. They were being held by 1879.

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professors and other public speakers were brought to instruct teachers on teaching methods and to increase their knowledge of the various fields of study. The institutes certified teachers in the various subjects. Raesly initiated a pay scale based on the number of subjects a teacher was certified to teach.<sup>13</sup> He also required teachers to bring their report books to the monthly school board sessions so the board could review the progress of each student.<sup>14</sup>

In his reports to the state superintendent of public instruction in Harrisburg, Raesly frequently discussed "prominent features in our educational progress," and he discussed ways to improve the design of schoolhouses. He took advantage of new state legislation enabling school districts to borrow larger sums of money for constructing schoolhouses<sup>15</sup> and moved to phase out the smaller polygonal schools. New schoolhouses dating to Raesly's tenure were the United and Wassergass Schools (1879)<sup>16</sup> and the Lutz-Franklin School (1880), though later schools also incorporated his insights. Items Raesly mentioned in his reports to the Pennsylvania Superintendent of Public Instruction included the following:

1. Raesly had a particular interest in fresh air for students and discussed the subject in several reports. In his report of 1880, Raesly declared 47 of the 205 schoolhouses in Northampton County were "badly ventilated." He believed that "impure" air would rise and be trapped along the ceiling in the school room. Raesly advocated tall double hung windows with a moveable upper sash to allow stale air to escape at the top while fresh air entered at the bottom. [Given his concerns, it is notable that the heater in the Franklin Schoolhouse is a Buffalo "Fresh Air" Heater.]
2. Raesly complained of the expense of constructing a raised floor area or stage at the front of school rooms (which he called the "platform"). He "saw no advantage

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<sup>13</sup> Lower Saucon School Board minutes, 1888-1895. No school board minute books are known to exist before 1888 for Lower Saucon, but the minute books of the nearby Hellertown School District were consulted for 1872-1898.

<sup>14</sup> Hellertown School Board minutes, 8/11/1879.

<sup>15</sup> Isaac Doughton, *Evolution of the Public School Bonded Debt of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: 1925), pp. 13-14, 46.

<sup>16</sup> Photographs of these schools in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection were printed in the book *Images of America: Lower Saucon Township* (Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005), pp. 97-118.

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- gained" by these platforms, calling them "an obstacle to teacher and pupils" and an "unnecessary expense."
3. Raesly advocated installing blackboards lower to the floor to allow younger students to write their exercises there.
  4. Raesly sought to eliminate paired desks in favor of single desks. He was particularly interested in desks that were comfortable for the students.

Raesly's recommendations gradually made their way into the design of schoolhouses. His first two schools in Lower Saucon Township were the Wassergass School and the United School, both built on Wassergass Road in 1879. These two buildings feature two clear improvements over the earlier schools: larger windows and higher ceiling heights. Neither building had a spire or school bell. Raesly's third schoolhouse in Lower Saucon was the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse. It features even larger windows than those at Wassergass and Union and also reflected Raesly's insights into interior design noted above (no platform and blackboard near the floor). As such, the Lutz-Franklin School may be considered the fruition of Raesly's construction insights. Although not mentioned in his reports, the clearspan classroom space at Lutz-Franklin with its attic truss is a major design element. The Lower Saucon Church School, constructed on Easton Road after the end of Raesly's term, is very similar to Lutz-Franklin – with nearly identical details except for the design of the belfry. The Church School provides important evidence for a common source of inspiration. Later schools constructed at Kunsman's Corner (1887) and Lehigh Mountain (1890) continued the process, with high ceilings and larger windows. The Lehigh Mountain Schoolhouse appears to have been the last one-room schoolhouse constructed in the township (though one-room schools remained in use there until 1958).

The overall significance of the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse among its contemporary schoolhouses is tied to its association with Raesly's ideas. Each schoolhouse reflects the educational trends of its day, to be sure, but in this pool of one-room masonry schoolhouses with such similar one-story, three-bay appearances, Lutz-Franklin appears to have been designed to resolve design issues of the 1870s and set the stage for Lower Saucon Township's one-room schoolhouses of the succeeding two decades.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the northeast point of the property, on the west side of Countryside Lane, the boundary proceeds clockwise the following courses: southwest 350 feet along Countryside Lane, then following a turn in the road westsouthwest 95 feet to the intersection with Limpar Lane; thence leaving the road northwest 115.5 feet to a field marker; thence northeast 390 feet; thence southeast 115.5 feet; and finally east 49.71 feet to the place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is the same as the tax parcel. This location includes all extant historic resources associated with the property.

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## Photographs

All photographs enclosed with this nomination were taken on April 27, 2007 by Robert Wise of Wise Preservation Planning. The digital photographs were printed on an HP Officejet 6310 using HP Vivera Inks. The following are captions to the photographs.

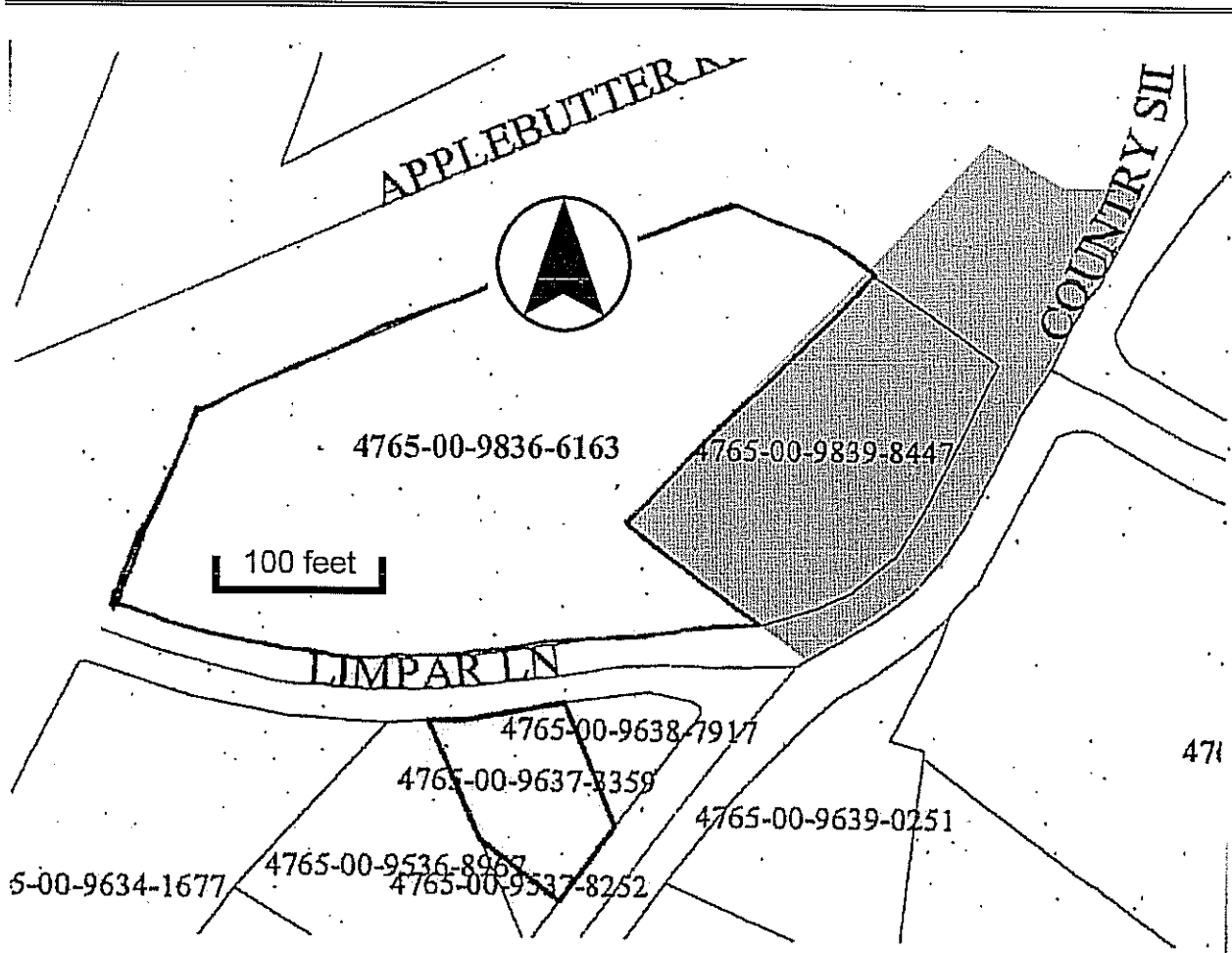
Photo #	Description
1	Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse, facing north.
2	Schoolhouse, main elevation, facing northeast.
3	Schoolhouse, facing east.
4	Schoolhouse, rear elevation, facing southwest. The east (left) and north (right) elevations are visible.
5	Front porch of schoolhouse. Note the Queen Anne detailing.
6	Datestone of schoolhouse, main elevation.
7	View of school room from the entrance, facing northeast. Note the increasing size of desks to the right.
8	School room, facing southwest from the blackboard.
9	School room, facing northwest from the teacher's desk towards the stove.
10	Buffalo Fresh Air Heater, the original heating system for the schoolhouse.
11	View of the framing system in the attic. The diagonal visible here is one of the A-frame trusses in the attic supporting the ceiling of the school room.

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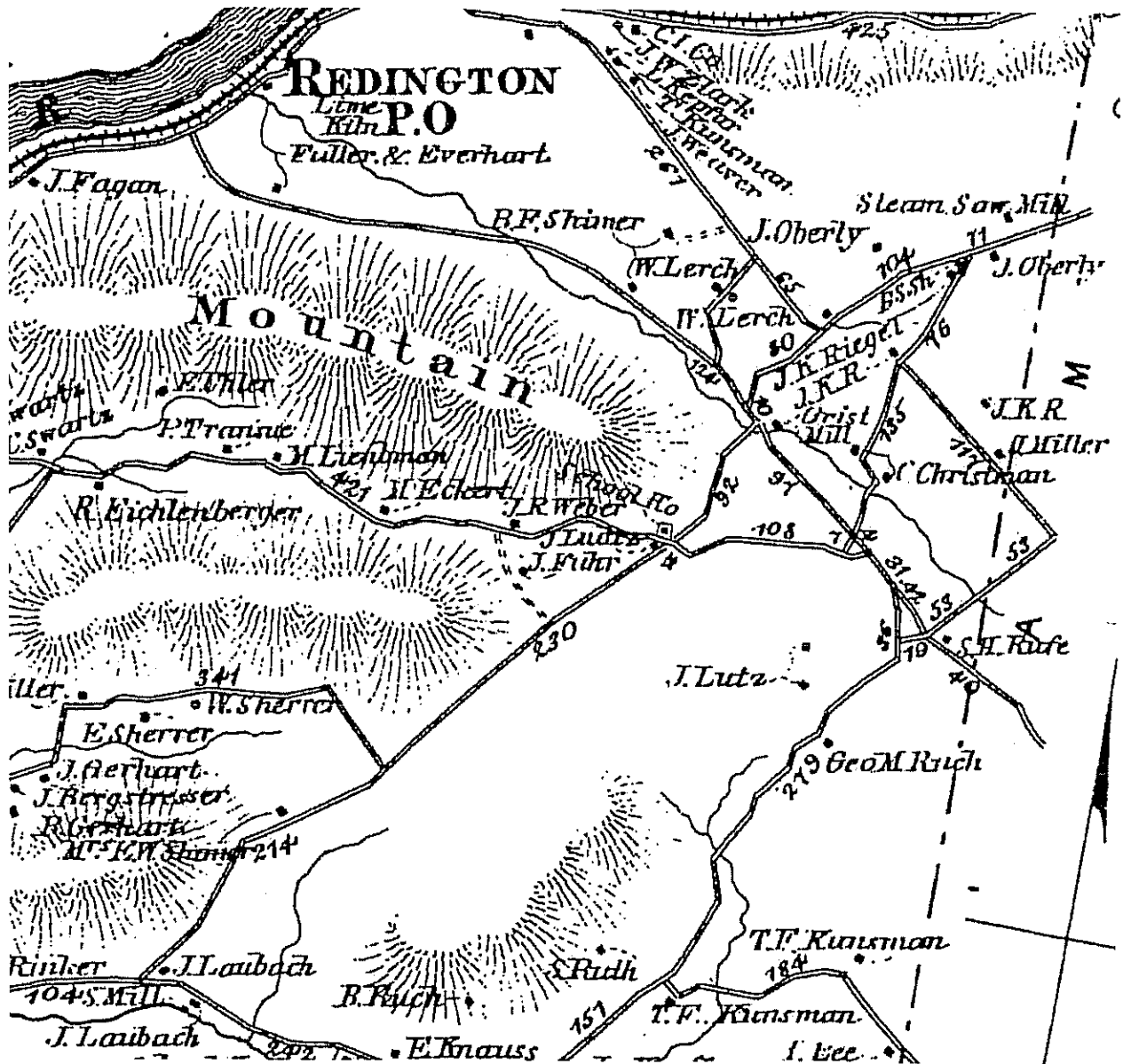
Map 3. Detail of tax parcel map. The shaded area represents the approximate boundary of the tax parcel (the tax map excises areas within the right-of-way of roads).

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Map 5. Detail of Lower Saucon Township, D. G. Beers, *Atlas of Northampton County, Pennsylvania* (A. Pomeroy & Co., 1874). Note that the map shows the earlier school building.