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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A low stone wall, topped by an iron fence, encircles the front of the Stiegel-Coleman House. Huge old trees also surround the residence, partially blocking it from view from a distance. Little changed since the eighteenth century, the mansion is much as it was when it was the center of an industrial empire.

Stiegel built the southeastern section of the residence, which is on the right as you face the house, sometime between 1756-58. It is a two-story, gable-roofed stone structure. A long stone wing extends to the north behind the east end of the Stiegel House. A wood belfry sits on the south end of the wing, which ends in an icehouse. The wing also included the ironmaster's office, as well as the cell where the Hessian prioners were kept.

The Coleman addition to the Stiegel House was erected sometime between 1776 and 1790, probably nearer the latter date than the former. The addition projects forward from the west end of the Stiegel section and is a two-story stone building that has been plastered. It has a gable roof, with one dormer window in front. A porch protects the front and two sides of the house.

Inside, the Coleman wing has been changed only by the addition of bathrooms. As you enter from the front, one can move into a parlor on the right from a hall that runs through the width of the building. The parlor is distinguished by its original handblocked French wallpaper. Also, the room, as do the house's other rooms, retains its original woodwork. The dining room is behind the parlor. Across the hallway fron the parlor is the living room and behind it is a room that presently contains exhibits concerning Stiegel and Coleman. On the second floor there are three bedrooms, plus a bath that has been made out of a bedroom. The third floor contains additional rooms, probably servants' room originally.

A lovely terraced garden, dominated by ancient boxwood, sits behind the house. The garden was probably laid out between 1800-1810.

In addition to the Stiegel-Coleman House, there are several other buildings that date from the estate's active iron producing years. Huber's small one-story stone house is just east of the main house, and a large charcoal house is just beyond Huber's residence. In back of the Huber residence is a large stone stable. Unfortunately, Elizabeth Furnace has disappeared.

The preceding buildings may be visited only by special permission.

(Continued)

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	🔲 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1756-	1790	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
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Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The William Henry Stiegel-Robert Coleman House, Lititz, Pennsylvania, is associated with two of the Country's early and significant industrialists, and over a century of early American iron manufacturing. Between 1756 and 1758, Stiegel built the original section of the house close by his Elizabeth Furnace where he produced the iron and glass manufactures that earned him his fortune and his fame. In 1776 the house and furnace were acquired by the young ironmaster, Robert Coleman, who eventually amassed one of the largest fortunes in post-Revolutionary Pennsylvania. Between 1776 and 1790, Coleman constructed a major addition to the original house, and between 1800 and 1810 he had a formal garden laid out. The house is still owned by the Coleman family, andis used as a private residence.

### History

The Stiegel-Coleman House stands in an estate that was associated with iron manufacturing for over a century. In 1746, John Jacob Huber acquired 400 acres of land in Lancaster County and shortly after built a small stone house, which still stands near the Stiegel-Coleman residence. Huber, reputedly Pennsylvania's first German ironmaster, erected a furnace about 1750, and, among other products, manufactured five-plate stoves. But Huber is especially remembered because Stiegel married his daughter.

Little is known about Stiegel's earliest years. He was born on May 13, 1729, perhaps in Manheim, Germany. The eldest of six children, he apparently visited England sometime before travelling to Pennsylvania. He migrated from Europe in the summer of 1750, arriving in Philadelphia in August on the ship Nancy with his mother and younger brother.

A man of energy and ambition, the immigrant soon became an important colonial industrialist. He obtained employment at Huber's furnace about 1752 and subsequently married his employer's daughter, Elizabeth. Around 1756, Stiegel and several partners purchased Huber's furnace. The young ironmaster then built a new furnace and named it "Elizabeth" after his wife. Business boomed for the German. By 1763 he had decided to manufacture glass, so he erected a glass house at Elizabeth Furnace, and its success caused Stiegel to concentrate on glass making. Although retaining an interest in Elizabeth Furnace for several years, he by 1765 had

(Continued)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

Pennsylvania

Lancaster

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARKS) (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

## Elizabeth Farms

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

Boundaries

Beginning at the junction of the entrance road with State Route 501, proceed S along the northern curb of the entrance road 400', thence along the 500' contour approximately 800', thence SE, continuing to follow the 500' contour for 2,000', thence S to the north curb of U.S. 76, thence W along the north curb of U.S. 76 to its intersection with the east curb of Rte. 501, thence N to the point of origin, along the east curb of Rte. 501.

These boundaries enclose the Stiegel-Coleman House and its outbuildings. The additional land has been include in an effort to enclose the potential archeological sites of the Elizabeth Furnace and other related structures. Further research is indicated for the documentation and development of these sites.

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8.	Statement of	Significance: (1)	Elizabeth Farms
estal		5	glass producing center. But the

est "Baron," as he became known because of his expansive mode of living, ultimately failed and died in poverty on January 10, 1785.

Unlike Stiegel, Robert Coleman died a rich man. Born near Castle Finn, Donaghmore, County Donegal, Ireland, on November 4, 1748, he emigrated to the colony of Pennsylvania in 1764. He was sixteen, and supposedly landed in Philadelphia with three guineas in his purse. He also had some letters of introduction to friends of his father. He obtained a job in a store in Philadelphia, but soon moved to Reading, where he worked as a clerk for a legal official for two years. A better opportunity then arose and in 1766 Coleman became a bookkeeper at nearby Hopewell Forge at L100 a year. Within six months he had left that forge and had taken a job at Quitapahilla Forge, near Lebanon, Pennsylvania. This forge was owned by James Old, whose daughter, Ann, Coleman married on October 4, 1773. Shortly after his marriage, he rented Salford Forge near Norristown. While operating it during the next three years, he learned the art of cannon casting.

Near the end of his tenure at Salford Forge, the American Revolution began. It resulted in independence for the United States and a boom in the iron industry, and Coleman benefited from both.

The young ironmaster unhesitatingly supported the American cause. After leaving Salford Forge, Coleman first rented and then gradually became the sole owner of Stiegel's Elizabeth Furnace. Under Coleman's direction, the furnace concentrated on the production of war material during the Revolution. In order to enable the furnace to continue manufacturing shot, shells, and cannon as the labor supply dwindled, the Second Continental Congress permitted Coleman to use Hessian prisoners at his works. In 1783, the ironmaster counted seventy German captives at his furnace.

Following independence, Coleman's iron empire expanded dramatically. He purchased Speedwell Forge on Hammer Creek in 1784. This forge had been erected by Coleman's father-in-law in 1760. In 1791, he erected a furnace on Conewago Creek in Lebanon County. It cost **b2**,600 and in its first year of producting, April, 1791-April, 1792, was called Mt. Joy Furnace. In 1792, it was renamed "Colebrook Furnace." Six years later the affluent Coleman acquired historic Cornwall Furnace. This ironworks had been built in 1742 The year by Peter Grubb and was located on Furnace Creek in Lebanon County. 1798 is also significant in Coleman's career, because by June of that year he owned five-sixths of the rich Cornwall iron ore mines near Cornwall The oldest continuously exploited iron mines in the United States, Furnace. they furnished Coleman with high grade ore for his various ironworks.

As Coleman expanded andprospered, he used his sons to manage his forges and furnaces. They were initiated to the practical side of the business at some of their father's forges, usually at Hopewell or Speedwell Forge. If a son (Continued)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pennsylvania COUNTY

Lancaster

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM** 

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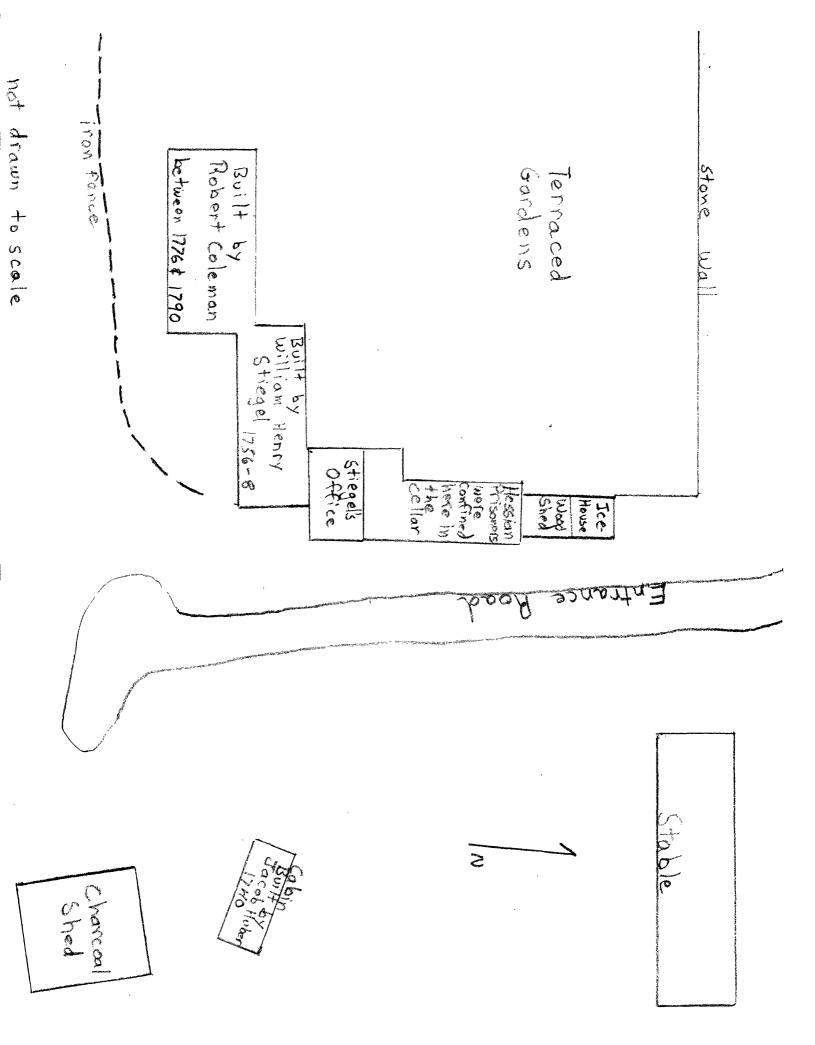
performed successfully at a forge for several years, he was then promoted to a furnace. As a result of his business acumen and his sons' skills. Coleman's works by 1809 annually manufactured about 2,000 tons of pig iron and 1,100 tons of bar iron.

The ironmaster also had an active public life. A member of the Pennsylvania militia, Coleman fought in the Battle of Brooklyn in September, 1776, and continued to serve until 1781. He sat as a member of the Commonwealth's General Assembly in 1783-1784; voted as a delegate to ratify the Federal constitution; and acted as a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1789-1790. Other public services included an associate judgeship in Lancaster County between 1791 and 1796.

When Coleman died in 1825, he owned three furnaces, four forges, a rolling and slitting mill, and 22,000 acres of land. That large and valuable estate was inherited by his four sons, who continued to operate the various works for many years.

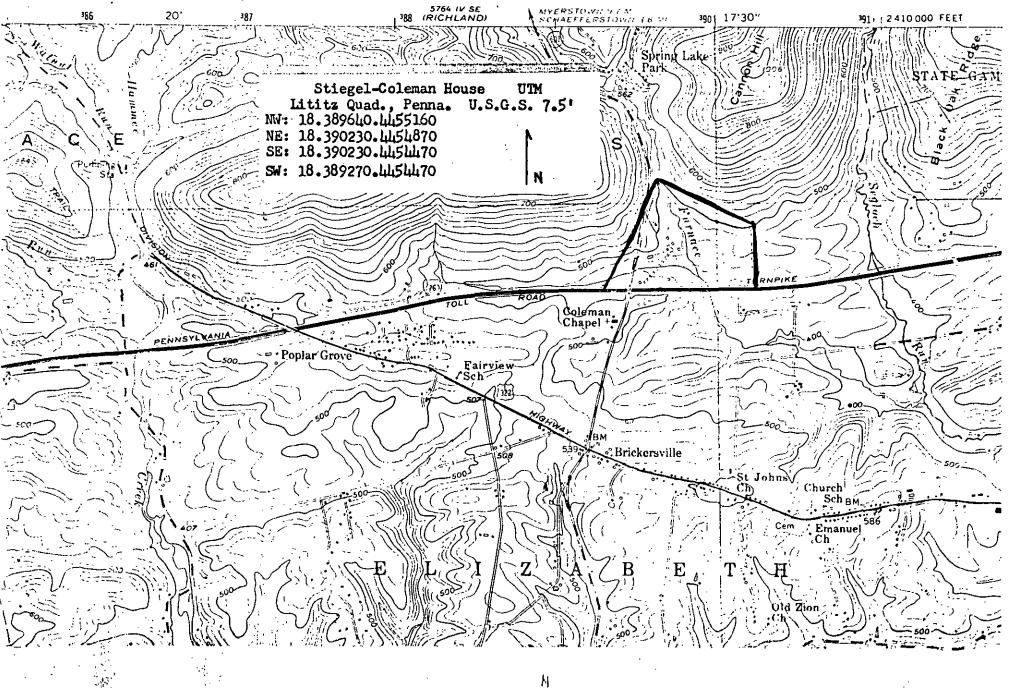
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