

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Historic Resources

The many historic resources in Palmyra Township are key components of the rural-recreation landscape and the character of the community. The history and historic resources of the Township have been well documented by the Township Historian and the Wallenpaupack Historical Society, each maintaining an extensive list and description of buildings, structures and sites which comprise the historic fabric of the Township. The preservation of these resources in this time of growth and development is one of the basic tenets of this *Comprehensive Plan*. Some of the historic resources in the Township are detailed in the *Selected Palmyra Township Historic Resources Table* on the next page and the *Historic Sites Map* included at the end of the *Plan*. *Palmyra Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania, A History* by Township Historian Donal S. Coutts, documents the Township’s history from the time of the Native Americans through establishment of the Township in 1798 as part of Wayne County, to the present.

HISTORIC RESOURCES GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

**Historic Resources Goal:
Protect historic resources as an important part of the character of the Township.**

A number of historic sites and structures are found in Palmyra Township, ranging from residences and outbuildings to a school. Buildings were erected as part of a growing community, and although many of the early structures are now gone, the many which remain add tremendously to the character of the community. In addition to buildings, stone walls and fences are significant historic features throughout the Township. Originally an integral part of early agricultural practices, stone wall and fences are now being incorporated into home design and as the prime feature in landscaping. The preservation of historic buildings and other features, and encouraging new development to be consistent with the existing historic character are critical to the future of the community.

***P**ennsylvania has more than 100,000 historic resources identified by the National Register of Historic Places. Thousands more could be identified across the state, in cities, towns and villages, and rural areas. This rich heritage is under threat-from abandonment and demolition of decaying urban building stock, destruction of rural landscapes and prime farmland for housing and business, and highway construction to accommodate the tidal wave of trucking and passenger traffic. As with our natural resources, we must strengthen our values and develop strategies to maintain our historic resources. Historic resources are worth saving. Without these resources, communities would lose their integrity, identity, and their attractiveness to newcomers. The goal is to strike a balance between development and saving what's important to the community's past.*
Source: *Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania*, p. 83.

OBJECTIVES:

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| Historical Society | Work with the Wallenpaupack Historical Society to promote historic preservation in the Township. |
| Identify and Evaluate | <p>Develop an inventory of historic resources and evaluate the resources for register status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Register - Based on the historic resources inventory, create a local historic |

register and consider nomination of qualifying structures and places to the National Register of Historic Places.

Adaptive Reuse

Encourage the adaptive reuse of historic resources.

- Adaptive Use - Allow the adaptive use of large older homes to enable owners to adequately maintain the structures.

Design Guidelines

Develop guidelines for residential and commercial development to encourage historically sensitive design.

Education

Educate property owners on the significance and value of historic resources, and of the opportunities for their preservation.

Funding

Identify funding sources for historic preservation.

EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCES

National Register of Historic Places

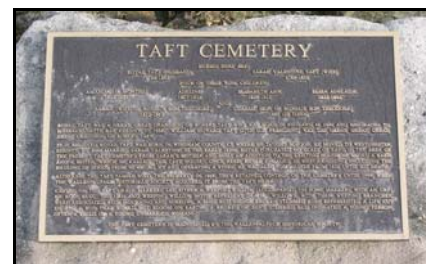
The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission manages the National Register of Historic Places for Pennsylvania. National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, federal agencies, and others identify significant historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions. Listing in the National Register, however, does not interfere with a private property owner's right to alter, manage or dispose of property. It often changes the way communities perceive their historic resources and gives credibility to efforts to preserve these resources as irreplaceable parts of our communities. Listed historic districts enable municipalities to control the exterior appearance of structures. Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects.
- Eligibility for federal tax benefits for income producing properties.
- Qualification for federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

National Register

According to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, no individual structures in the Township are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, although the Paupack Consolidated School is identified as eligible. Two historic districts are also listed, both in Promised Land State Park: the Bear Wallow Cabin District and the Whitaker Lodge District.

The limited number of designated or eligible structures in Palmyra Township does not mean that it does not have a rich history. Many of the older homes and buildings and historic sites in the Township, along with the landscape itself, add to the historic fabric.



SELECTED PALMYRA TOWNSHIP HISTORIC RESOURCES	
(Source: Pike County Comprehensive Plan)	
SITE NAME	DESCRIPTION
PP&L Hydro-Electric Dam	At Wilsonville, it has a height of 70 feet and a breadth of 1,280 feet. The dam also contains a 137 ton spillway gates used to regulate the Lake Wallenpaupack water level.
Tafton Dike	Located at junction of Routes 6 & 507.
The Old Paupack Cemetery	This cemetery is a living memorial to one of the original Wallenpaupack settlers, Zadoc Killam.
Paupack Methodist Church	Built in 1906 located on Route 507, 4 miles south of the Tafton Dike.
Ansley House	John Ansley was one of the original founders of the Wallenpaupack Settlement. Lived in by six generations of Ansleys since its construction, it also served as a boarding house for Lake Wallenpaupack visitors until a few years after WWII.
The Spring of Wallenpaupack Fort	This spring provided an unending source of water for the Connecticut pioneers for their palisaded fort. John Pellet, a member of the original Wallenpaupack group, built the home that now stands directly across from the Ben Killam Road from the spring. Until the summer of 1978, the spring supplied potable water to the House.
Pellet House	Built early in the 19th century and in 1842, the house was enlarged and since that time the exterior shape has not been altered.
Killam House	The House is located on the lake side of Route 507. This two-story, white clapboard homestead is also believed to have been built early in the 1800's by members of the original Wallenpaupack settlement.
Gumbletown Road	This road is named after the Gumble family who settled in the highlands. Several distinctive farm houses are also situated along this route.
Promised Land State Park Whittaker Lodge District (Palmyra/Greene)	Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it is on the National Register of Historic Sites for its Architecture/Engineering and Event. The Area of significance: Conservation, Social History, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government. The period of significance is from 1925-1949.
Promised Land State Park Bear Wallow Cabins (Palmyra/Greene)	Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it is on the National Register of Historic Sites for its Architecture/Engineering and Event. The Area of significance: Conservation, Social History, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government. The period of significance is from 1925-1949.
Promised Land State Park - Gas & Oil House (Palmyra/Greene)	The Gas and Oil House was built in 1935. It was constructed to serve as the storage and dispensing facility for gasoline and oil used in park automotive equipment and vehicles. The building was used for this purpose from 1935 to 1971. Since 1971, it has been used only for the storage of miscellaneous park materials.
Paupack Consolidated School	Located on S.R. 507, South of S.R. 6. Opened in 1925, the year Lake Wallenpaupack was created, remodeled in 1938 and again in 1958, was closed by the School District in 1988.



Wallenpaupack Historical Society (Williams House)

Some of these buildings and structures may also be eligible for listing on the National Register. However, the application process is very detailed and the criteria are quite rigorous with the need to document national historic significance, not simply local significance. Even if a building or site is included as eligible, sufficient documentation must be submitted to gain the full listing on the National Register.

Benefits of Historic Preservation

Since the 1970s, mounting evidence has shown that historic preservation can be a powerful community and economic development strategy. Evidence includes statistics compiled from annual surveys conducted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and statewide Main Street programs, state-level tourism and economic impact studies, and studies that have analyzed the impact of specific actions such as historic designation, tax credits, and revolving loan funds. Among the findings:

- *Creation of local historic districts stabilizes, and often increases residential and commercial property values.*
- *Increases in property values in historic districts are typically greater than increases in the community at large.*
- *Historic building rehabilitation, which is more labor intensive and requires greater specialization and higher skill levels, creates more jobs and results in more local business than does new construction.*
- *Heritage tourism provides substantial economic benefits. Tourists drawn by a community's (or region's) historic character typically stay longer and spend more during their visit than other tourists.*
- *Historic rehabilitation encourages additional neighborhood investment and produces a high return for municipal dollars spent.*
- *Use of a city or town's existing, historic building stock can support growth management policies by increasing the supply of centrally located housing.*

Source: *Planning Commissioners Journal*, No. 52, Fall 2003, p. 4.



Ansley House



Pellett House

ACTIONS

Site and Sign Design Guidelines

Prepare and adopt design guidelines for all types of development to encourage the most efficient use of land and development consistent with community character. As part of a continuing commitment to the historic character of a community some municipalities and historical societies provide site and sign design guidelines to encourage commercial establishments and signs to be consistent with the community’s heritage. The guidelines would not be mandatory outside of a historic district listed on the National Register, such as the Milford Historic District. Nevertheless, such a community based effort would be invaluable to preserving the overall character of the Planning Area, and would be particularly effective in support of any revitalization program for Pennsylvania Avenue.

Historic Preservation Actions

- Support efforts of the Wallenpaupack Historical Society to promote the benefits of historic preservation and document and preserve local history and historical artifacts.
- Allow home occupations in all zoning districts as a means of encouraging productive use of historic structures which tend to be larger and more difficult to maintain.
- Consider the development of a local historic register program aimed at identifying properties eligible for state and national recognition, and encourage and support efforts to list and preserve such properties on the National Register.
- Incorporate the preservation of historic resources in conservation design for residential and commercial development.

Historic Preservation Planning

A well-conceived preservation planning process serves to:

- *Establish a basis of public policy about historic resources;*
- *Educate and inform residents and others about their community’s heritage and its value;*
- *Identify opportunities for economic growth based on the community’s historic and architectural character.*
- *Ensure consistency among various local government policies that affect the community’s historic resources;*
- *Lay the groundwork for adopting a local historic preservation ordinance or strengthening an existing one;*
- *Eliminate uncertainty or confusion about the purpose, meaning, and content of a community’s preservation ordinance;*
- *Inform existing and potential property owners, investors, and developers about what historic resources the community wants to protect as it grows;*
- *Create an agenda for future preservation activities; and*
- *Facilitate compliance with federal and state historic preservation and environmental quality laws.*

Preservation plans serve several purposes:

- *educating elected and appointed officials, municipal staff, property owners, investors, and others about the status of historic resources within the community and the economic benefits of preservation;*
- *formally documenting existing conditions, issues, opportunities, and challenges;*
- *providing information on tax and other incentives for preservation;*
- *offering discussion and analysis regarding preservation of historic resources, and establishing a roadmap for future efforts;*
- *setting out the roles and responsibilities of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors with regard to the preservation of historic resources.*

Source: *Planning Commissioners Journal*, No. 52, Fall 2003, p. 6.

- Encourage community associations to work with the Wallenpaupack Historical Society to develop association histories.

NPS Certified Program

Consider participation in the Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Program of the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Historic Preservation.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Certified Local Government Program is a preservation partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) in each state, with each local community working through a certification process to become recognized as a Certified Local Government (CLG). CLGs then become an active partner in the Federal Historic Preservation Program and the opportunities it provides.

Why become a CLG? The key reason is the access certification provides to the expert technical advice of the State Offices as well as the NPS. Partnerships with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Preserve America, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Main Street Center are also networks that CLGs have an opportunity to tap into. Of course, access to Federal funding is another benefit, making certified communities able to access the portion of Federal funds set aside by each SHPO for just CLGs annually. Being a CLG also shows your community's commitment to keeping what is significant from the past for future generations. As a certified town, city, or county seeking other opportunities, it becomes easy to demonstrate a readiness to take on a preservation project and be successful.

What is a CLG required to do?

A community must show both the state and NPS that they are committed to historic preservation. They can do this by addressing the following minimum goals.

- * Establish a Preservation Commission*
- * Establish an ordinance*
- * Maintain an active survey of local historic resources*
- * Participate in the National Register process*

(Source: www.nps.gov/history/hps/clg/)