

November 16, 2009
GAI Project No. C080204.10

Douglas C. McLearen, Chief Division of Archaeology & Protection
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State Museum Building
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Attention: Susan M. Zacher

RE: ER# 81-0658-079
NRC: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant
Management Summary Phase Ib Cultural Resource Investigation
Luzerne County, Conyngham, Nescopeck, Salem Townships

Dear Mr. McLearen:

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) is pleased to provide clarification in response to your comments regarding the ***Management Summary Phase Ib Cultural Resource Investigation*** for the above-referenced project. We appreciate your comments and recommendations provided in your letter dated October 28, 2008. Upon your concurrence, the following revisions will be incorporated into the forthcoming ***Phase III Cultural Resources Survey Report***, to be prepared by GAI.

While underlined text provided below highlights our resource-specific responses and/or clarifications based on your information requests, please note that a full thematic historic context which underscores character-defining elements of the North Branch Susquehanna Valley will also accompany these revisions in the ***Phase III Cultural Resources Survey Report***.

1. Individual Agricultural Resources

***Revised, completed Farmstead Forms, including the narrative physical and historical sections, as presented below, are submitted as an attachment to this letter (Attachment 1).**

A. Woodcrest (GAI-04)

Physical Description

Originally dating from 1805, Woodcrest is a farmstead anchored by a 2-story, brick, Federal style house constructed in 1822. This house has a 1-story rear ell, and is constructed on a stone foundation with a common bond brick exterior. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Three brick interior chimneys pierce the roof, which is marked by a molded frieze and rakeboards and is trimmed with cornice returns and late-19th-century Italianate style corbels and brackets. The full-width, hip-roofed porch appears to date from the late 1800s, as it is executed in an Eastlake style with detailed spandrels and pendants. The fenestration consists of 2/2 and 2/4 double-hung, wood sash windows, all trimmed with shutters. Each gable end is also marked by a pair of quarter-round, attic story windows.

Associated with the main house is a 1.5-story, gable roofed, brick secondary living quarters (which possibly served as a tenant house). Built on a stone foundation, this building is constructed of brick laid in common bond and has a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There are entrances on the south and west elevations, marked by a gable-roofed portico and shed-roofed porch, respectively. The fenestration consists of 2/2 double-hung, wood sash windows, with shorter windows on the second story. A single brick interior chimney pierces the roofline. A second brick outbuilding is located to the south and east of the main house. Constructed on a

smaller scale, this building also is built of brick and has a gable roof, and may have been used as a summer kitchen during its history.

Located opposite these residential buildings is a large, gable-roofed, heavy timber-framed bank barn. This large barn is built on a stone foundation and is clad in horizontal wood siding. The roof is clad in V-crimp metal, and two gable-roofed cupola vents are located along the ridge line. The fenestration throughout consists of louvered vent openings with molded wood drip caps and surrounds. A sliding double door marks the entrance from the earthen embankment approach. A small, one-room concrete block addition is located on the south elevation. To the northeast of the barn is a 20th-century concrete block garage with a shed roof. The façade of this building is marked by a large, 40-light, central sliding door flanked by two smaller solid doors on strap hinges. Additionally, there is a small, 1-story, wood-framed shed to the west of these outbuildings. This shed-roofed building is clad in vertical wood siding and is in a deteriorated-to-ruinous condition.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Around 1840, the North (and West) Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region emerged as a distinct region. Between 1840 and 1860, developments in transportation systems as well as the general temperance movement that was effecting the entire nation, facilitated a shift away from the trend of cultivating grain for whiskey and prompted a surge in the production of corn, wheat, pork, and butter (PHMC 2009: 152). Between 1860 and 1940, agriculture in the region was influenced by nearby growing industrial areas, easily reached by the newly constructed canal and rail transportation systems. Local farms focused on a diverse mix of products to satisfy these markets. However, the crops and livestock changed only subtly in this region, and farming in the area continued to exhibit a highly diversified approach consisting mainly of wheat, corn, hay, and oat crops, with the raising of milk cows, sheep, cattle, and swine (PHMC 2005: 153).

Typical of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current Woodcrest *property*, historically the William Harter farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that William Harter held 140 acres of improved and 40 acres of unimproved land in Hollenback (present-day Conyngham) Township and owned four (4) milk cows, seven (7) sheep, eighteen (18) swine, and two (2) cattle. In 1849, Harter's farmstead produced 250 pounds of butter, 300 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of Indian corn, and 600 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Hollenback). Also indicative of subtle changes in the Harter Farmstead's product mix and consumption by both family and livestock is the presence of the Pennsylvania Barn which represents "an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century...as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level" (PHMC 2005: 165).

The Harter farmstead continued to adapt in the latter part of the 19th century and seemingly followed the trend of many farmers in the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley who when presented with stiff competition from western wheat and flour growers, decided to develop and sell more perishable products and local specialties (PHMC 2005: 173). 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicate that 750 pounds of butter were produced on the farm in 1879, as compared to only 250 in 1849 (NARA 1880: Conyngham).

Family labor still predominated on farms in the 1860-1940 period. On average, the 1880 manuscript census indicates that a typical farm seldom hired even a single laborer (usually male) for more than 28 weeks, and most were only kept for ten or fewer weeks (PHMC 2005: 180). However, the 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts for Conyngham Township indicated that \$250 was "paid for wages for farm labor during 1879 including value of board" by the Harter

farmstead. This agricultural census data is further supported by the presence of the secondary living quarters which could have served as a tenant house. Unfortunately, J. Hiram Miller, the owner of the farmstead in 1927 could not be located in the Agricultural Census Manuscripts for that year; therefore, 20th century agricultural census data is not available for comparison.

This collection of residential and agricultural buildings combines to form a resource that clearly reflects the rural agrarian life and agricultural practices of Conyngham (formerly Hollenback) Township in the 19th and 20th centuries. Further confirmed by 1938 aerial photography is the presence of these associated agricultural outbuildings identified extant by historical and architectural survey fieldwork (Penn Pilot 1938). As such, Woodcrest is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No evidence could be located to connect this resource with any significant individuals in local or regional history. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. Both the main house and its outbuildings maintain sufficient integrity to convey their architectural significance. Additionally, the main house reflects elements of several historical styles from throughout its existence. Therefore, this resource is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

B. Kiliti Farm (GAI-07)

Physical Description

Built circa 1925, the main house of the Kiliti Farm is a heavily-altered American Foursquare style house built on a stone and concrete foundation. This house is clad in aluminum siding, and the pyramidal roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Shed-roofed dormers project from two elevations of the roof. A modern shed-roofed porch spans the width of the façade, and it is marked by plain wood posts and a half wall. A large shed-roofed ell has been added to the rear of the house. The windows throughout are modern metal-framed replacements, including 1/1 double-hung sash and picture windows.

There are a number of wood framed agricultural outbuildings associated with this resource. In addition to the circa-1870 Pennsylvania Barn, which is clad in vertical wood siding with a V-crimp metal roof, there are a number of circa-1955 and circa-1970 gable-roofed pole buildings and circa-1970 grain storage bins on this property, all of which are in fair condition.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Reflective of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current Kiliti *property*, historically the Alexander Jameson farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that Jameson held 120 acres of improved and 80 acres of unimproved land in Salem Township and owned four (4) milk cows, zero (0) sheep, seven (7) swine, and twenty (20) cattle. In 1849, Jameson's farmstead produced 320 pounds of butter, 120 bushels of wheat, 80 bushels of Indian corn, and 200 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Salem). Similar to the Woodcrest farmstead in Conyngham Township, the Kiliti farm is marked by the presence of a Pennsylvania Barn which is indicative of subtle changes in the Jameson farmstead's product mix and consumption by both family and livestock. The Pennsylvania Barn represents "an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century...as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level" (PHMC 2005: 165).

Comparable to Woodcrest (historically the Harter farmstead) of Conyngham Township, the Jameson farmstead continued to adapt in the latter part of the 19th century and seemingly followed the trend of many farmers in the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley who when presented with stiff competition from western wheat and flour growers, decided to develop and sell more perishable products and local specialties (PHMC 2005: 173). 1880 Agricultural

Census Manuscripts indicate that 600 pounds of butter were produced on the farm in 1879, as compared to only 320 in 1849 (NARA 1880: Salem). Unfortunately, Henry J. Seely, the owner of the farmstead in 1927 could not be located in the Agricultural Census Manuscripts for that year; therefore, 20th century agricultural census data is not available for comparison.

While the Pennsylvania Barn on this property dates from the latter half of the 19th century, the remaining agricultural outbuildings buildings materials and massing suggest that they were constructed in the mid-to-late 20th century. Landscape disturbances consistent with construction activities are evident in 1959 aerial photography, which support these field survey findings (Penn Pilot 1959). As a result, these buildings do not collectively demonstrate an association with significant farming trends of the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that connects this resource to a significant individual in local or regional history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. While the main house in this complex maintains elements of its architectural integrity, it does not stand as a hallmark of late 19th-century vernacular architecture in the area. Additionally, the outbuildings are of recent construction and do not possess the requisite architectural significance for NRHP listing. Therefore, this resource is collectively recommended ineligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

C. Heller Farm (GAI-08)

Physical Description

Built circa 1880, the main house of the Heller Farm is a 1-story, brick, gable-roofed vernacular style house built on a stone and concrete foundation and constructed on an L-plan. Two gable roof additions have been appended to the west elevation, with exterior walls which are clad in vinyl siding. A concrete block stove flue has been adjoined to the the east elevation. The fenestration throughout consists of 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows.

Three agricultural outbuildings are associated with this resource. They include a circa 1880 Pennsylvania Barn with a catslide roof built on a raised concrete block foundation, a circa 1920, long, gable-roofed animal building (possibly a chicken house or horse stable), and a circa 1940, wood-framed, gable-roofed outbuilding of unknown function. Evidence of a former silo is seen by remnants of a circular foundation. A large modern shell building has been constructed on the property and currently functions as a commercial dog kennel.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Consistent with farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current Heller *property*, historically the Seybert farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that Sebastian Seybert held 30 acres of improved and twenty (20) acres of unimproved land in Salem Township and owned four (4) milk cows, zero (0) sheep, twelve (12) swine, and three (3) cattle. In 1849, Seybert’s farmstead produced 240 pounds of butter, 200 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of Indian corn, and 300 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Salem).

Similar to Woodcrest in Conyngham Township and the Kiliti farm in Salem Township, the Heller Farm is marked by the presence of a Pennsylvania Barn, which is indicative of subtle changes in the farmstead’s product mix and consumption by both family and livestock. The Pennsylvania Barn represents “an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century... as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level” (PHMC 2005: 165). 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicated that the Seybert farmstead experimented with crops of buckwheat and rye producing 50 bushels of buckwheat and 25 bushels of rye, in addition to 200 bushels of Indian corn, 150 bushels of oats, and 100 bushels of

wheat (NARA 1880: Salem). Unfortunately, the heirs of Phillip H. Seely, the owners of the farmstead in 1927 could not be located in the Agricultural Census Manuscripts for that year; therefore, 20th century agricultural census data is not available for comparison.

Presently, the farm is used as a commercial dog kennel facility. The buildings no longer reflect an association with the historic agricultural practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture region and compete in scale with the modern metal shell building. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that connects this resource to a significant individual in local or regional history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The main house of Heller Farm stands as an altered and typical example of a commonly-found vernacular architectural form in the region. The remaining agricultural buildings do not possess the requisite architectural significance for listing and were not constructed using any specialized techniques. Therefore, this resource is collectively recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

D. Valley View Farm (GAI-20)

Physical Description

Dating from circa 1870, the main house at Valley View Farm is a 2-story, gable-roofed, frame vernacular house built on a stone foundation. The exterior of the house is clad in weatherboard, and the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front porch is 3 bays wide and is topped by a shed roof supported by turned wood posts with decorative brackets. The original porch deck has been replaced by modern wood decking. Additionally, a small hip-roofed portico extends from the north elevation of the house to function as a side porch. Also on the north gable end of the house stands a brick exterior chimney. The original windows of this house have been replaced with modern 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows, which are trimmed by decorative fixed shutters on the façade. The rear of the building has been altered.

There are two other remaining buildings on the Valley View Farm property. The first is a circa-1870 Pennsylvania Barn, which is built on a stone foundation. The exterior of this barn is clad in vertical board siding, and the gable roof is topped by modern V-crimp sheathing. The entrance doors have been recently replaced. Several window openings on the barn are marked by louvered vents, and basement-level fenestration includes 6-light windows. A small, concrete block, shed-roofed addition extends from the rear of the barn. The ell addition has been removed. Separating the barn from the house is a circa 1930 small, 1-story, gable-roofed, wood-framed machine shed. This building is built on a concrete foundation and is clad in horizontal siding and shingles. The gable roof is divided into two sections; the first with asphalt shingles and the second topped by rolled asphalt. The shallower pitched roof section also has exposed rafter tails. Windows in this building include 6/1 double-hung sash and awning windows.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Characteristic of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current Valley View Farm *property*, historically the Meixell farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification indicating that Peter Meixell held 100 acres of improved and thirty (30) acres of unimproved land in Salem Township and owned four (4) milk cows, four (4) sheep, sixteen (16) swine, and one (1) cattle. In 1849, Meixell's farmstead produced 200 pounds of butter, 150 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of Indian corn, and 187 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Salem).

Similar to Woodcrest in Conyngham Township and the Kiliti and Heller farms in Salem Township, the Valley View Farm is marked by the presence of a Pennsylvania Barn which is indicative of subtle changes in the farmstead's product mix and consumption by both family and livestock. The

Pennsylvania Barn represents “an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century...as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level” (PHMC 2005: 165).

Again comparable to Woodcrest and the Kiliti Farm, the Valley View Farm continued to adapt in the latter part of the 19th century and seemingly followed the trend of many farmers in the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley who when presented with stiff competition from western wheat and flour growers, decided to develop and sell more perishable products and local specialties (PHMC 2005: 173). 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicate that 550 pounds of butter were produced on the farm in 1879, as compared to only 200 in 1849 (NARA 1880: Salem). Unfortunately, J.F. Meixell, the owner of the farmstead in 1927 could not be located in the Agricultural Census Manuscripts for that year; therefore, 20th century agricultural census data is not available for comparison.

Presently, the farm is used for vehicle storage and modest livestock use. The buildings no longer reflect an association with the historic agricultural practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture region. The few remaining buildings at the Valley View Farm do not clearly reflect the nature and extent of agricultural practices of Salem Township or the Berwick area in the early 20th century. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No evidence could be located that connects Valley View Farm to any significant individuals in local history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The main house of Valley View Farm has been altered and stands as a typical example of a commonly found architectural form in the region. The remaining agricultural buildings do not possess the requisite architectural significance for listing and were not constructed using any specialized techniques. Therefore, this resource is collectively recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

E. Michaels Farm (GAI-25)

Physical Description

Constructed circa 1870, the main house of the Michaels Farm appears to have originally been a duplex. This 2-story, gable-roofed, frame vernacular house stands on a stone and concrete foundation, is clad in weatherboard trimmed with cornerboards, and has an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof. The full-width, shed-roofed porch is a replacement of the original porch, and is supported by plain wood posts. The roofline is marked by a molded frieze and rakeboards, and a modern concrete block chimney stands against the gable end of the house. The fenestration consists of 2/4 and 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows; most of which also have modern 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash storm windows on the outside. A 1-story, shed-roofed ell has been appended to the rear of the house.

There are a handful of small-scale agricultural and domestic outbuildings associated with the house. Located opposite the house stands a circa-1965 shed-roofed concrete block storage building/barn and silo. An earthen embankment leads to the sliding wood door at the entrance, and 4-light windows comprise this building’s fenestration. Located to the southwest of the house is a gable-roofed, 2-bay, concrete block garage. This building has modern hinged doors, 4-light windows, and exposed rafter tails. Located immediately to the rear of the house are another concrete block garage and a small building that may serve as a smokehouse. The garage behind the house is a 1-bay replica of the 2-bay garage located to the southwest of the house, and has the same features and design. This building, as with the 2-bay garage, was likely constructed in the 1960s. The small frame smokehouse building is clad in drop siding and has a small flue piercing the roof. Further to the west of the house stands a circa-1965 concrete block equipment storage shed. This gable roofed building has three closed bays, as well as an open shed roofed extension. Near this outbuilding stands a wood-framed, shed-roofed storage building also dating from the late 20th century.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Typical of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current Michaels Farm property, historically comprising two separate farmsteads belonging to Daniel Hill and Elijah Harris—witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that Daniel Hill held 270 acres of improved and 150 acres of unimproved land in Salem Township and owned four (4) milk cows, zero (0) sheep, twenty-four (24) swine, and eleven (11) cattle. In 1849, Hill's farmstead produced 300 pounds of butter, 300 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of Indian corn, and 200 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Salem). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts enumerate that Elijah Harris held 30 acres of improved and 15 acres of unimproved land in Salem Township and owned two (2) milk cows, zero (0) sheep, eleven (11) swine, and zero (0) cattle. In 1849, Harris' farmstead produced 300 pounds of butter, 80 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of Indian corn, and zero bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Salem).

The Michaels Farm did not follow the trend of many farmers in the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley in the latter part of the 19th century who decided to develop and sell more perishable products and local specialties (PHMC 2005: 173). 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicated that Elliot Hill ceased butter production altogether on the farm in 1879 as compared to 300 pounds produced in 1849 (NARA 1880: Salem). Unfortunately, Miranda Hill owner of the farmstead in 1927 could not be located in the Agricultural Census Manuscripts for that year; therefore, 20th century agricultural census data is not available for comparison.

While the main house on this property dates from the 19th century, the associated agricultural outbuildings were constructed in the late 20th century and do not reflect the themes revealed as a result of a review of the historical agricultural context and census data. As a result, these buildings do not collectively demonstrate an association with significant farming practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that connects this resource to a significant individual in local or regional history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. While the main house in this complex maintains elements of its architectural integrity, it does not stand as a rare or well-preserved example of late 19th-century vernacular architecture in the area. Additionally, the outbuildings are of recent construction and do not possess the requisite architectural significance for NRHP listing. Therefore, this resource is collectively recommended ineligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

F. Farm at 950 Berwick-Hazleton Highway (SR 93) (GAI-29)

Physical Description

Built circa 1870, the main house of this property is a 2-story, gable-roofed, brick house built in the Greek Revival style. The foundation and exterior walls are common bond brick, and the gable roof is clad in composition shingles and is trimmed with a molded cornice, frieze, rakeboards, and cornice returns. Two brick chimneys constructed during different periods are located on either gable end. The front porch dates from the early 20th century, and consists of a hipped roof supported by tapered posts on brick piers, with a shingle-clad half wall. The fenestration consists of modern 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows, with triangular attic-story lights on the gable ends. The windows have cut stone lintels and sills. A 2-story, shed-roofed addition is currently under construction. It is appended to the 2-story rear ell, which is constructed in the same style and materials as the main block of the house. Additionally, a previous 2-story addition was placed at the rear of the ell, likely within the last 20 years.

Associated with this property are several outbuildings. Immediately to the rear of the main house stands a circa 1960, 2-story, gambrel-roofed barn constructed with a concrete base and a

shingle-clad second story. This building has gabled wall dormers on either side, and its entrance is located on the east elevation. Further to the north stands a modern metal-shell pole building. This gable-roofed building has two open bays on the east elevation and fixed windows on its side elevations. Beyond the pole building stands a circa 1910 Pennsylvania Barn serving as a dairy barn, which is constructed in two distinct sections. The western section is constructed of concrete block and is adjoined by a circa-1950 metal-skin silo, and the eastern section is constructed with a wood frame and is clad in horizontal wood siding. A 1.5-story, shed-roofed addition is located on the north elevation of the western end, opposite an open shed-roofed storage area, and a small gable-roofed addition is located on the eastern elevation of this barn. Further to the north stands a circa-1960, gable-roofed storage building. Presently, these farm buildings are used to store vehicles.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Reflective of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current farm property at 950 Berwick-Hazleton Highway (SR 93), historically the Raber farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that Michael Raber held 100 acres of improved and 100 acres of unimproved land in Nescopeck Township and owned four (4) milk cows, nine (9) sheep, seventeen (17) swine, and three (3) cattle. In 1849, Raber's farmstead produced 200 pounds of butter, 150 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of Indian corn, and 600 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Nescopeck).

Similar to Woodcrest in Conyngham Township and the Kiliti, Heller, and Valley View farms in Salem Township, this farmstead is marked by the presence of a Pennsylvania Barn, which is indicative of subtle changes in the farmstead's product mix and consumption by both family and livestock. The Pennsylvania Barn represents "an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century...as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level" (PHMC 2005: 165).

1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicated only an incremental 100-pound increase in butter production on the farm, enumerating 300 pounds produced in 1879 compared to 200 pounds produced in 1849 (NARA 1880: Salem). Agricultural Census Manuscripts from 1880 also enumerate the farm of George Raber as including 125 acres and producing dairy products, grains (wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, buckwheat), Irish potatoes, honey, clover seed, hay, and butter. Raber also had planted an apple orchard. Livestock included horses, cattle, poultry, and swine.

Presently, the farm no longer functions in its original capacity, serving only as vehicle storage. As such, the buildings no longer reflect an association with the historic agricultural practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture region. The collection of buildings at this property does not clearly convey a sense of the historical role of this farm. Dating from various time periods, the buildings do not exhibit a clearly-defined role for this farmstead. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. Likewise, no information connecting this property to significant individual could be located. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The main house of this property exhibits some characteristics of the Greek Revival style. However, recent large-scale additions have compromised its architectural integrity. Additionally, the vernacular domestic and agricultural outbuildings have lost integrity and are not exceptional examples of their types in the region. Therefore, this property is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

G. Farm at 783 Berwick-Hazleton Highway (SR 93) (GAI-33)

Physical Description

Dating from circa 1880, the main house of this farm complex is a 2-story, gable-roofed, masonry vernacular residence with elements of the Greek Revival, style built on an L plan. Constructed on a stone foundation, the exterior walls of the house are common bond brick, and the gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The roof is trimmed with a molded frieze and cornice returns. The recently constructed full-width front porch has a shed roof supported by turned posts with decorative brackets and a lattice balustrade. The windows throughout are primarily replacement 1/1 double-hung sashes trimmed with lintels and sills, and the gable ends have triangular attic story windows. An exterior brick chimney is located on the east elevation of the house.

There are several outbuildings associated with this property. The first is a circa-1910, gambrel-roofed, timber-framed, Three Gable barn. This T-shaped barn is built on a stone foundation and is clad in vertical wood siding. Its metal-clad roof is punctuated by four cupola vents. Its fenestration includes 6/6 double-hung sash windows. A mid-20th-century silo stands adjacent to the barn, and a circa-1950 concrete block wing connects the barn to a circa-1930, gable-roofed stone outbuilding that may have once served as a milk processing building. This building has an asphalt shingle-clad roof with flared eaves and a gable roof vent. The gable ends are clad in vertical wood siding. To the north of the barn is a group of several modern structures, including a shed-roofed, open bay, equipment shed with metal siding and several modern grain storage bins. Also in the complex is a modern metal-sided pole building, which is located to the northeast of the house, and a circa 1920, small wood-framed building that may have served as a spring house.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Consistent with farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current farm property at 783 Berwick-Hazleton Highway, historically the Thrash farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that W. Thrash et al. held 72 acres of improved and ninety (90) acres of unimproved land in Nescopeck Township and owned two (2) milk cows, four (4) sheep, four (4) swine, and two (2) cattle. In 1849, Thrash's farmstead produced 150 pounds of butter, 60 bushels of wheat, and 50 bushels of Indian corn.(NARA 1850: Salem).

Agricultural Census Manuscripts from 1880 enumerate the farm of James Thrash, including 170 acres, and producing grains (wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, buckwheat), Irish potatoes, hay, honey, eggs, and butter. Two (2) acres of trees yielded 40 bushels of apples and three (3) acres of Irish potatoes yielded 140 bushels of crop. The farm's livestock consisted of horses, cattle, poultry, and swine (NARA 1880: Nescopeck). Also evident in the 1850 and 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts enumerating the Thrash farmstead is the marked mechanization. By this point, most townships included in the region showed a much higher than average (for Pennsylvania) level in the value of farm implements, more than likely due to the presence of nearby ironworks. The 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscript enumerates the Thrash farmstead's "farming implements and machinery" valued at \$50, versus the 1880 value of \$400 (NARA 1850 and 1880: Nescopeck).

This collection of buildings at this farm has changed over time, as many of the original buildings have been replaced by modern domestic and agricultural buildings that serve in capacities not consistent with the farm's history. After a review of the historical agricultural context and census data, it seems that other farm complexes throughout the region that have a more intact assemblage of outbuildings would better reflect late 19th and early 20th century farming practices of the Susquehanna Valley—Woodcrest (GAI-04) and the Benjamin Evans Farm (located off PA 93 in Nescopeck and NRHP-listed in 1993) best exemplify these themes. For these reasons, this

resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No evidence could be located that connects this resource to any significant individuals in local history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. A number of better-preserved examples of late 19th century masonry vernacular farm houses exist throughout the area. Likewise, while several of the outbuildings retain a modicum of integrity, they do not stand out as exceptional examples of vernacular agricultural architecture in the area. This, coupled with the loss of integrity through additions and alterations to the buildings, as well as construction of modern infill, results in this resource being recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

H. Farm at 811 River Road (SR 3036) (GAI-50)

Physical Description

Built circa 1880, the main house of this property is a 2-story, five-bay, gable-roofed house built in the Georgian style. The centered entrance is marked by a molded door surround with a transom and sidelights. An incised side porch on the rear ell is topped by a shed roof supported by turned wood posts and has modern decking. The fenestration throughout consists of modern 8/8 double-hung, vinyl sash windows, with modern triangular attic story lights on the gable ends. An original corbelled brick chimney is located on the west elevation.

To the rear of the house stands a large, wood-framed, circa-1920 Pennsylvania Barn. This barn was originally built in an L configuration, with an earthen ramp approach, but has subsequently been altered by a modern addition that nearly doubles the size of the original structure, resulting in a U shape. This barn is built on a concrete block foundation and is clad in wood siding. The roof of the original section of the barn is clad in V-crimp metal with four cupola vents, and the modern section of the barn is topped by asphalt shingles. Located to the southeast of the barn is a circa 1970, 1-story, gable-roofed, concrete block building that appears to function as a dairy. This building is partially obscured by a modern modular home located on the property.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Consistent with farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current farm *property* at 811 River Road, historically the Fortner farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that George Fortner held seventy (70) acres of improved and thirty (30) acres of unimproved land in Nescopeck Township and owned three (3) milk cows, eleven (11) sheep, fourteen (14) swine, and three (3) cattle. In 1849, Fortner's farmstead produced 250 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of Indian corn, and 150 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Nescopeck).

Similar to Woodcrest in Conyngham Township, the Kiliti, Heller, and Valley View farms in Salem Township, and the farm at 950 Berwick-Hazleton Highway (SR 93) in Nescopeck Township, this farmstead is marked by the presence of a Pennsylvania Barn, which is indicative of subtle changes in the farmstead's product mix and consumption by both family and livestock. The Pennsylvania Barn represents "an efficient adaptation to new conditions throughout eastern Pennsylvania in the early 19th century...as it reflected new grain and livestock systems in that it housed livestock on the lower level and accommodated hay storage, grain storage, and threshing on the upper level" (PHMC 2005: 165).

The Fortner farmstead continued to adapt in the latter part of the 19th century and early 20th century and seemingly followed the trend of many farmers in the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley who when presented with stiff competition from western wheat and flour growers, decided to develop and sell more perishable products and local specialties (PHMC 2005: 173). 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicated a substantial increase in butter production on the farm, enumerating 300 pounds produced in 1879 compared to zero pounds produced in 1849 (NARA 1880: Nescopeck. Agricultural Census Manuscripts from 1880 also

enumerate the farm of Isaac Smith (formerly George Fortner) as including 83 total acres and producing dairy products, grains (wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, buckwheat), Irish potatoes, and hay. Smith also had planted an apple orchard. Livestock included horses, cattle, poultry, and swine. The production of dairy products reached a commercial scale at the 811 River Road property during the mid-20th century, as deed research indicated that the farmstead was owned by John S. Lanning T/A Berwick Creamery Farm (Luzerne County Deed Book 1370: 128).

During the 1940-1960 period, farms in the North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture Region continued the pattern of local market production. The average number of milk cows per farm in 1950 was significantly below the statewide average in this area. It is important to note that some products were featured more than others within the context of a highly diversified mixed agriculture. It is the “pattern of diversification” that delineates the region, rather than simply the “fact of diversification” (PHMC 2005: 177). As in previous decades, very few farms could be called “specialized.” Certainly some milk was produced and shipped out to urban markets on the eastern seaboard and in the anthracite region, but dairying did not have the presence it did in other regions such as the Northern Tier (PHMC 2005: 228). While many of the agricultural outbuildings associated with this farmstead reflect an association with mid-20th century dairying practices, this trend is not one revealed through an analysis of the historical agricultural context and census data.

As such, this collection of residential and agricultural structures do not collectively demonstrate an association with significant farming practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that connects this resource to a significant individual in local or regional history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. While the main house in this complex maintains elements of its architectural integrity, it does not stand as a rare, or well-preserved example of late 19th-century vernacular architecture in the area.

I. Farm at 212 East Cherry Road (TR 379) (GAI-35)

Physical Description

This small farmstead is anchored by a 2-story, circa-1890, frame vernacular residence built on a modified cross plan. Constructed on a stone and concrete foundation, the exterior of this house is clad in asbestos shingle and vinyl siding. The roof, which has both gable and jerkinhead forms, is clad in asphalt shingles with pent gable end returns. These gable ends are clad in wood shingles, and the façade features a projecting polygonal bay. The hipped roof of the porch is supported by plain wood posts with an asbestos shingle-clad half wall. The windows throughout are modern 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes, and the entrance doors on the front porch are topped by transom windows. Associated with this house is a series of 20th century outbuildings. Immediately to the rear of the house stand three long concrete block poultry shelters. These shed-roofed buildings date from circa 1960. Two of the three are constructed of concrete block, while the third is a wood-framed building on concrete block piers clad in vertical wood siding. Between these buildings and the house stands a small, circa-1950, wood-framed shed. This gable-roofed building is clad in plywood and has a 5V-crimp metal roof. Further to the east of the main house stands a circa-1960, gable-roofed, wood-framed barn. This barn is built on a concrete foundation, is clad in vertical wood siding, and has a roof capped by V-crimp metal.

Historical Narrative and Significance

Characteristic of farmsteads in the North Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming Region in the 1840-1860 period, the current farm *property* at 212 East Cherry Road, historically the Croll farmstead, witnessed a diversification of agriculture—characterized by crops of wheat, corn, hay, and oats, a small surplus of butter, small numbers of milk cows, sheep, and beef animals, and higher than average numbers of swine (PHMC 2005: 153). 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscripts reflect this diversification, indicating that Heinz Croll held ninety (90) acres of improved and fifty

(50) acres of unimproved land in Nescopeck Township and owned two (2) milk cows, eleven (11) sheep, ten (10) swine, and five (5) cattle. In 1849 Croll's farmstead produced 125 pounds of butter, 154 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of Indian corn, and 300 bushels of oats (NARA 1850: Nescopeck).

1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts indicated only an incremental 175 pound increase in butter production on the farm enumerating 300 pounds produced in 1879 compared to 125 pounds produced in 1849 (NARA 1880: Nescopeck). Agricultural Census Manuscripts from 1880 also enumerate the farm of Benjamin Evans (formerly Heinz Croll) as including 202 total acres (100 improved) and producing dairy products, grains (wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, buckwheat), Irish potatoes, honey, and hay. Evans also had planted an apple orchard. Livestock included horses, cattle, poultry, and swine. Also evident in the 1850 and 1880 Agricultural Census Manuscripts enumerating the Croll/Evans farmstead is the marked mechanization. By this point, most townships included in the region showed a much higher than average (for Pennsylvania) level in the value of farm implements, more than likely due to the presence of nearby ironworks. The 1850 Agricultural Census Manuscript enumerates the Croll/Evans farmstead's "farming implements and machinery" valued at \$100, versus the 1880 value of \$300 (NARA 1850 and 1880: Nescopeck).

This small farmstead no longer maintains its ability to convey its historic function, as none of its original associated agricultural outbuildings which would reflect mid-to-late 19th and early 20th century farming practices of the North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valley remain. As such, the extant mid-20th century outbuildings do not possess associations with significant events or themes. As a result, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No evidence linking this property to any significant individuals in local history could be identified. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The buildings on this property do not have sufficient architectural significance or integrity to warrant NRHP listing. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.

2. Potential for Rural Historic Agricultural District

A review of historic and current aerial photography reveals an introduction of non historic land uses—primarily the expansive Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant in Salem Township and scattered residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions along the Susquehanna River in Nescopeck Township. Considering these intrusions, along with the diverse topography, geographic barriers which separate many of the farmsteads located throughout the project area, and the omission of Luzerne County from the *Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c. 1700-1960: North and West Branch Susquehanna River Valleys*, it is not possible to draw a clear, specific connection between the farms in the area of the proposed project through documentary sources. Land use activities, including settlement patterns and responses to the natural environment, should be investigated through an expanded agricultural context, specifically in terms of how such practices differed between farms located south of the river in the river bottoms in Nescopeck Township and those in the highlands across the Susquehanna River in Salem Township. Preparation of such a context is not within the scope of the current project.

When viewed as a single landscape, a rural historic district should be inclusive of a number of farmsteads that reflect historic agricultural patterns of the area. However, the conditions noted above combine to result in a substantial reduction in a once much larger agricultural area. As such, delineating a rural agricultural district, while at the same time being attentive to both the historic-period and present-day relationship of the buildings to one another and to the surrounding landscape becomes nearly impossible.

3. Regional Vernacular Architecture & Recurring Features

The architectural and historical investigations for this project identified the dominant types of house forms found in the project APE. These included the Fivebay (central doorway), Four Square, Bungalow, Gable Front forms, dating from circa c.1805 to c.1950. Very few pure examples of definable architectural styles

were identified in the project area, as the rural region was historically associated with dairy farming, livestock raising, and extractive industries. However, a few examples of the Greek Revival, Federal, Georgian, and Colonial styles were acknowledged. The Wapwallopen Historic District (GAI-36-45) boasted a variety of styles including Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Stick, and Colonial Revival.

Triangular windows were noted in the attic stories of four farmhouses in the project area, suggesting a common architect, builder, or supplier. However, no information could be located specifying the identities of any such people, and chain of title research did not reveal any connection between the owners of the four houses. The use of the triangular windows does not appear to be for architectural scale, design, or effect; rather the choice, acquired skill, or perhaps trademark of the carpenter. No other recurring vernacular architectural details or features were identified in the project area.

4. Surveyed Architectural and Historical Resources in the Project Viewshed

As requested, a map showing the locations of all architectural and historical resources identified in the project area is provided as an attachment to this letter (Attachment 2). This project map was previously submitted as *Figure 3* in the **Management Summary Phase Ib Cultural Resource Investigation** (Munford 2008:10). Additionally, a second map showing the locations of only those 22 architectural and historical resources addressed in the **Management Summary Phase Ib Cultural Resource Investigation**, and their corresponding CRGIS key numbers, is provided so that these resources can be easily located on the database (Attachment 3).

5. Architectural Resources

1. PRR Sunbury Line/Delaware & Hudson Railroad (GAI-27)

Originally a Pennsylvania Railroad route constructed following the Civil War as part of a series of short routes in the region to interchange with the Reading Company, Delaware Lackawanna & Western, and other northeastern anthracite-hauling roads, the Sunbury Line historically ran from Sunbury to Wilkes-Barre. This line was operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad until 1968, when the PRR was merged with the New York Central to form the Penn Central. Following Penn Central's bankruptcy, Congress decided to grant trackage rights to the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. This move extended the Delaware & Hudson's southern terminus from Wilkes-Barre to Sunbury, stretching as far north as Albany and Montreal. Congress believed that new trackage rights would strengthen the Delaware & Hudson's position as a bridge route carrier. In 1976, most trackage in the northeast was conveyed to the Consolidated Rail Corporation. Trackage rights were gained on three major routes as a result (Nescopeck Centennial Committee 1996: 36).

The Pennsylvania Railroad's (PRR) Sunbury Line originally served as a connector line for its Sunbury Division. On the PRR's Sunbury and Shamokin Divisions and the Philadelphia and Erie and Northern Central Railroads were located nearly all the anthracite coal-lands owned or controlled by the coal companies allied in interest with the PRR, and on these Divisions by far the largest part of the anthracite tonnage moved over the PRR was mined, weighed, and classified. The Sunbury Division served as the route for freight between the West and Northeastern New York and the New England States—the business consisting largely of the distribution of empty cars to and the collection of loaded cars from the different anthracite coal-breakers. The Sunbury Division, began at Sunbury and extended along the east bank of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, reached the Wyoming Valley anthracite coal region, and found one terminus at Wilkes-Barre (the extent of the PRR's Sunbury Line when it was merged with the New York Central in 1968). At Catawissa, 20 miles from Sunbury, it departed the Susquehanna River, and formed a letter "Y" with the line to Wilkes-Barre; it ran in an easterly direction, gradually climbed the mountains until it reached Hazleton. It then began a rapid descent towards Pottsville where the Sunbury Division joined the Schuylkill Division. In this direction it traversed the rich anthracite coal-fields of parts of Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties, and connected at Derringer with the extensive coal operations of Coxe Bros & Co (Wilson 1895: 263-264).

This railroad is significant for its role in the development and growth of the Pennsylvania Anthracite region. While only a small connector line, this railroad brought together important shipping centers such as Sunbury, Wilkes-Barre, and larger cities further away on major connecting routes from these local shipping centers. Because of this historical association, this resource is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that identifies a connection between this resource and a significant individual in local or regional history. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. This railroad does not possess any unique or distinctive engineering features in the vicinity of the project area. Since this is only a small, single-track configuration with no architecturally significant associated structures or buildings (e.g., bridges, yards, depots, etc.), it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. The recommended NRHP boundary of the Pennsylvania Railroad- Sunbury Line/Delaware & Hudson Railroad incorporates the Right-of-Way limits, including the ballast, ties, and track.

2. The Bloomsburg Division of The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad (GAI-11)

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company had its origin as the Ligett's Gap Railroad which was chartered in 1832, although actual incorporation was not granted until 1849. In 1851, before construction was completed, the name was changed to the Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company. In October of that year, service actually began, with trains operating between Scranton and Great Bend, 54 miles to the north, where a connection was made with the New York and Erie.

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company was formed in 1853 as a consolidation of the Lackawanna & Western and the Delaware & Cobb's Gap companies. The latter was in the process of construction eastward from Scranton across the Pocono Mountains to the Delaware River. Service between Scranton and Portland, on the Delaware, began in 1856.

The Lackawanna then worked on gaining access to the seaboard. First it leased the newly constructed Warren Railroad to provide a connection between Portland and New Hampton, New Jersey. The latter was a junction point with the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which hauled the coal received from the Lackawanna to its tidewater terminals. The Lackawanna, however, had ambitions for its own line into the New York area, and these were satisfied in 1869 with the leasing of the Morris & Essex Railroad, which stretched across northern New Jersey to Hoboken on the Hudson River.

The principal addition to the system in Pennsylvania occurred in 1873, when the Lackawanna & Bloomsburg, which had been chartered April 5, 1852, was merged with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western. The Line of this road was along the Lackawanna River from Scranton to West Pittston and then through the coal-rich Wyoming Valley and on westward along the North Branch of the Susquehanna to Northumberland. There it connected with the Northern Central, now a part of the Pennsylvania. The western end of the line, from Northumberland to Beach Haven, is still in operation as the short line North Shore Railroad. Construction of this line began in Scranton in 1854. The line reached Berwick in 1858, and was the first railroad to reach Bloomsburg, in the same year (Bicentennial Committee 1976: 4 and Saylor 1964: 59).

Although this line was a relatively small spur of an overall larger system, it remains historically significant as being the principal addition to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad in Pennsylvania, the first railroad line chartered in this part of the Susquehanna Valley and the first railroad line to reach Bloomsburg. Therefore, this resource is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A for its association with transportation and commerce in the region. No documentary evidence could be located to connect this resource with any significant individuals in local or regional history. As such, it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. This railroad does not possess any unique or distinctive engineering features in the vicinity of the project area. Since this is only a small, single-track configuration with no architecturally significant associated structures or buildings (e.g., bridges, turntables, depots, etc.), it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. The recommended NRHP

boundary of the Canadian Pacific/Bloomsburg Division of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway incorporates the Right-of-Way limits, including the ballast, ties, and track.

3. The Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike (GAI-12)

As the population and the productions and wealth of the Luzerne County increased, there was an urgent demand for better roads and easier communication between distant points. In 1802, a charter was procured for the Easton & Wilkes-Barre turnpike. It occupied a large portion of the old road, and it was chiefly through the exertions of Arnold Colt that the first twenty-nine miles, beginning at Wilkes-Barre, were completed in 1806. Soon after, the entire distance from Wilkes-Barre to Wind Gap, forty-six miles, was finished at a cost of \$75,000 (Bradsby 1893: 250)

A Pennsylvania act signed March 28, 1806, authorized construction of turnpikes. In 1807, a company called the President, Managers, and Company of the **Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike** Road incorporated to build a turnpike from Berwick to the Tioga River at Elmira, New York, by the "best and nearest route." The resulting turnpike was in fact the shortest distance from Berwick to Elmira. Part of the road was located on 400 acres donated by the state and part on large land holdings of the corporation. Road construction started in Berwick and went north until completion in Elmira in 1825. As early as 1810, the **Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike** was considered the first good wagon road in this part of the state. At Berwick, a bridge over the North Branch of the Susquehanna River connected the **Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike** to the Susquehanna and Lehigh Turnpike, which was surveyed by Evan Owen in the 1790s (Nescopeck Centennial Committee 1996: 33-34).

During an embargo in 1812 and 1813, the farmers of Northampton County were unable to procure plaster from the seaboard, and were compelled to use New York plaster, which was conveyed down the Susquehanna in arks to Wilkes-Barre, and then in sleds and wagons over the turnpike. The old Nescopeck & Lehigh road was also made a turnpike under the name of the Susquehanna & Lehigh turnpike (Bradsby 1893: 250)

The Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike played a significant role in the development of the interior Susquehanna Valley, bringing goods and people from outside the area. While this road played a significant role in the history of transportation and commerce in the region, additional research conducted for the forthcoming draft of the **Phase I/II Cultural Resources Survey Report** indicated that roadways such as the Easton & Wilkes-Barre, Susquehanna and Tioga, and the Susquehanna & Lehigh turnpikes *collectively* facilitated the economic growth and development of the area. Therefore, no evidence suggests that the Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike played a more significant role than the aforementioned turnpikes in terms of its role in the history of transportation and commerce in the interior Susquehanna Valley. As such, it is recommended not individually eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No evidence connecting this resource with any significant individuals in local or regional history could be identified. As such, it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. Currently, the road consists of a modern highway and appurtenances, and there is no extant engineering or design feature that was originally associated with the Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike. Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

4. Stone Arch Bridge (GAI-06) and North Market Street Bridge (GAI-07)

Built circa 1935, the **Stone Arch Bridge** spans Walker Run. The bridge is constructed of stone with stone voussoirs marked by granite keystones. The stones are joined by beaded mortar joints, some of which have been repointed. The main span is extended by short wing walls on each end, and the superstructure is capped by pre-cast concrete coping. The bridge carries a single, asphalt-paved traffic lane.

Built circa 1935, the **North Market Street Bridge** spans Walker Run approximately 1 mile north of the small community of Beach Haven. The bridge is constructed of stone with stone voussoirs marked by keystones. The stones are joined by beaded mortar joints; some of which have been repointed. The main span reaches a pointed apex in the middle of the span and is extended by

short wing walls on each end, and the parapets of the superstructure are capped by granite coping.

These bridges are county bridges and are, therefore, are not identified by Department of Transportation BMS numbers. Likewise, these bridges bear no date stones and have not been previously inventoried. Only three (3) single span stone arch bridges, approximately 20 feet in length, were identified in Luzerne County—the Stone Arch and North Market Street Bridges — being the only ones in the project area. The other bridge, previously surveyed and located at the Creek Crossing of L.R. 40093 in Salem Township (092634), was constructed in 1941 by the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) and served as a reference for the both the Stone Arch Bridge (GAI-06) and North Market Street Bridge (GAI-07). Since no documentary evidence was available to evaluate these resources, a comparison was made to similar bridges in Luzerne County in terms of materials, number of spans, span type, length, date of construction, and builder. These bridges are not directly associated with any significant events or trends in local or regional history. As such, they are recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No documentary evidence linking these bridges to any significant individuals in local or regional history could be identified. Therefore, these bridges are recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. These bridges, however, are rare and well-preserved examples of early 20th century stone arch bridges in the area as only three are known to exist in Luzerne County. Therefore, these are recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C.

5. The United Reformed & Lutheran Church (GAI-03)

The Old River Church was constructed in 1833 by the Union Reformed and Lutheran Congregations. The woodwork was hand-carved by Master Carpenter Daniel Walp, with the assistance of Michael Weiss and William Hess. Hardware for the building may have been supplied by Peter Maurer, a local blacksmith. On September 4, 1887, the Reformed congregation discontinued their use of the church, and on October 4, 1908, the Lutheran congregation did as well. The building underwent restoration in 1952 by the Wapwallopen Historical Society.

The cemetery at the Union Lutheran and Reformed Church includes the graves of many of Wapwallopen's prominent local founding families. For example, John Andress, Abraham Andress, Peter Ennes, John Fenstermacher, Philip Fenstermacher, Michael Weiss, Johann Martin Harter (a veteran of the American Revolution), Isaac Heller, Jeremiah Hess, Peter Maurer, and their families are buried here. The Heller and Fenstermacher families were prominent millers in Wapwallopen (Wapwallopen Historical Society 1964: 30-62). Being the second Lutheran Church established in Nescopeck, this church community building and cemetery illustrate the growth and development of the Lutheran church in Nescopeck Township. In 1860, the congregation included 52 German Reformed Lutherans and 70 Lutherans (Pearce 1860: 306).

The massing and plan, as well as the architectural refinement, of the church reflect theological attitudes of the Wapwallopen congregation toward the material world, as well as the transformation of ecclesiastical architecture on the national level. The Union Lutheran and Reformed Church's "squarish rectangular" design is a late example of the traditional meetinghouse form, which featured an entrance aperture in the long wall and a three-sided gallery embracing a pulpit positioned on the back wall (Figure 1).

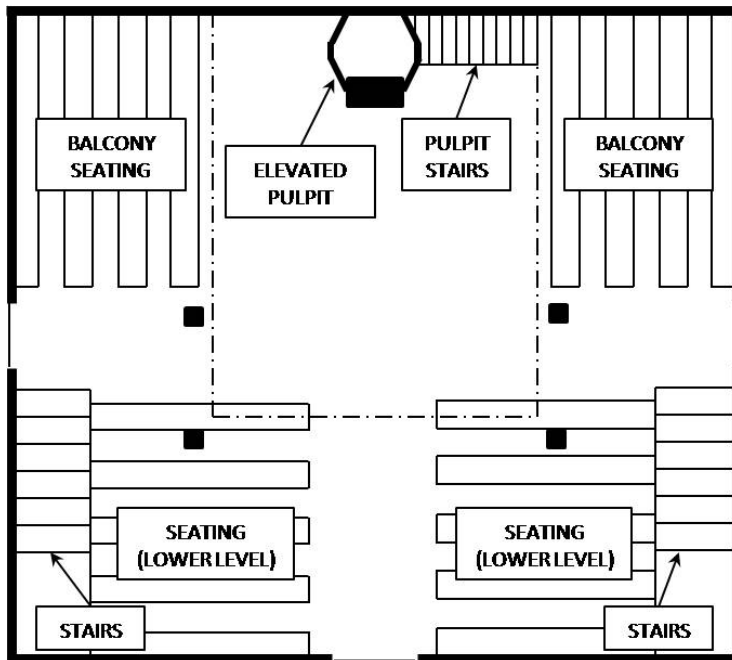


Figure 1— Plan of the United Reformed & Lutheran Church

Although the location of the communion table varied within this common meetinghouse form throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, at Wapwallopen, the table stood in an enclosed area before the pulpit. The original pulpit was replaced in the late nineteenth century by a low rostrum. This feature was removed and a new pulpit approximating the configuration of the original one was installed during the 1952 restoration (Lounsbury: 2006: 2) (Photograph 1).



Photograph 1—United Reformed & Lutheran Church Interior and Restored Pulpit (left)

By 1800, preferences in American ecclesiastical architecture were evolving in favor of decidedly rectangular and axial plans—with the principal entrance in the shorter gable end and larger window apertures. The intricate detailing in each doorway's frontispiece symbolizes the congregation's emphasis on music and the Eucharist in the liturgy. The pulpit and the altar in the interior mark the importance of the sacrament and scriptural exegesis in Lutheran worship

in comparison to other Protestant sects. Furthermore, the church's ornamentation illustrates the Lutheran's appreciation for embellishments that "glorify the majesty of God." While the church's design and style symbolize Lutheran spiritual practices, the church's character also manifests a historic period during the Second Great Awakening when a church building's components, which had been indexical of the denomination worshipping there, no longer clearly differentiated regional or denominational attributes and preferences (Lounsbury 2006: 1-18).

This resource demonstrates an association with early 19th-century rural and religious life, as the church building served as the focal point of the community's activities. The surviving church building (and its associated cemetery) reflects the theme of religious and cultural values of the surrounding community and therefore is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. Although the burial population includes significant individuals in the history of the church, these individuals have not been proven significant in the history of the region as persons of transcendent importance. Therefore, this resource is recommended not NRHP eligible under Criterion B. The church building has been restored, but clearly the restoration was carried out to



preserve and retain the massing and plan intended by the Union Reformed and Lutheran Congregations, specifically concerning the replacement of the original pulpit. Likewise; the restoration did not rob the building of any of its architectural refinement as the building is still trimmed with a number of delicate features. Special flourishes include the “stylized patera and cabling in the breastwork” of the gallery and the Christian symbolism carved in the entablature of the main entrance frontispiece consisting of lyres, harps, flagon, and a chalice (Photograph 2).

Photograph 2— Detail of the south frontispiece, United Reformed & Lutheran Church. A row of lyres decorates the frieze above the transom. Just below are symbols of the Eucharist with a flagon on the left and chalice on the right.

Additionally, since the exquisite hand-carved woodwork executed by Master Carpenter Daniel Walp (with assistance from Michael Weiss and William Hess) survives on this church building, it is recommended NRHP eligible under Criterion C.

6. North Branch of the Pennsylvania Canal (GAI-10)

Built in 1828 as the North Branch Canal, this canal line was constructed to provide a connection between Northumberland and the New York state line. By 1858, however, the canal system was sold to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company. They operated a 65-mile-long section of the line from Northumberland to Wilkes-Barre. In 1869, it was sold to the Pennsylvania Canal Company, who operated it until its closure in 1901.

Beach Haven became an important node in the canal system, as it was the site of locks and scales. Additionally, a boat yard at Beach Haven serviced canal boats in need of repairs. At this location, Hick's Ferry crossed the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to connect the powder works, farmers, and millers of Wapwallopen to the canal. Other local businesses, such as a tannery and a brickyard, relied on canal transportation for their profits (Bicentennial Committee 1976: 3-4).

This section of the North Branch Pennsylvania Canal reflects a clear association with the 19th-century canal- building transportation movement throughout Pennsylvania and retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical associations. As such, it is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. No information could be located that connects the canal to a significant individual in local or regional history. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The section of canal in the project vicinity retains sufficient integrity to convey the details of canal building technology in the early 19th century in eastern Pennsylvania. Therefore, it is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. The proposed NRHP boundary of the North Branch of the Pennsylvania Canal in the project area encompasses the main resource and includes the current Right-of-Way to its limits. However, the historical significance of the section of canal in the project vicinity cannot be conveyed in its entirety apart from the North Branch Canal District (141673) in adjacent Berwick Borough. As such, it should be considered as a contributing resource to the North Branch Canal District, which has been previously surveyed.

7. The Wapwallopen Historic District (GAI-36-45)

Physical Description and Integrity

The extant collection of buildings in Wapwallopen ranges from commercial and ecclesiastical to residential, and many are very well preserved. For the purposes of the current study, ten resources located along South River Street were defined as within the APE for the project. While these resources were inventoried and photographed, there remain a number of additional resources located outside the current study area that contribute to a collective historic district. The ten resources on South River Street date roughly from circa 1870 through circa 1900, and include representative examples of vernacular variants of several styles popular during the period, including Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Stick, and even Colonial Revival. While the wood frame residences typically exhibit meticulously crafted woodwork, such as highly detailed spindlework, pedimented window moldings, and ornate brackets and corbels, some masonry buildings use unusual joinery and brick configurations in addition to fine woodwork. Overall, the resources located along South River Street maintain good integrity and clearly display much of the original craftsmanship employed in late 19th-century construction.

The Wapwallopen Historic District contains 94 resources. There are 77 contributing resources, and 17 non-contributing resources. Contributing resources include: two churches, a church bell, orchards, garages, single family dwellings, multiple family dwellings, a mill, and a fruit retailer (Heller Orchards). Non-contributing resources are buildings constructed in the recent past and after the historic district's period of significance.

History and Significance

Wapwallopen's early history begins with missionary contact with Delaware and Shawnee groups and later the arrival of agricultural pioneers. European missionaries visited native groups at Wapwallopen in 1744. At that time, John Martin Mack and Christian Fröhlich, Moravian missionaries, called the area Hallobanck. In 1748, John Martin Mack and David Zeisberger noted one family living there. Colonial land grants to tracts in the Wapwallopen area date from 1769. Early Euro-American settlers of German, Swiss, and Alsatian ancestry arrived from Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Nescopeck Township was formed in 1792 after the American Revolution. Local trade in agricultural products and merchandise utilized road networks that connected Wapwallopen to Easton and Philadelphia. Residents established a school in Wapwallopen in 1808. Classes were taught in German. After 1811, Wapwallopen featured a grist mill, a sawmill, and a distillery. A ferry across the Susquehanna River connected Wapwallopen to Beach Haven, and later to the improved transportation networks of the canal and railroad on the opposite shore (Wapwallopen Historical Society 1964: 3, 14-20).

Wapwallopen's domestic economy remained agricultural in character throughout the nineteenth century until the duPont Powder Company recapitalized an existing powder works in 1859. Established in 1856, the Parrish, Silver & Company powder works operated a mill along Wapwallopen Creek until 1859, when bankruptcy forced a sale to the duPont Company. These powder companies profited from the anthracite industry's demand for blasting powder. The duPont Company closed the mill in 1912 (Janosov 1991: 84-85).

The multiple family dwellings in the Wapwallopen Historic District relate to the community's growth from the expansion of the powderworks by duPont. DuPont workers lived here during the powderworks operation. Life in Wapwallopen was closely related to the powderworks. For example, mill explosions frequently caused property damage in Wapwallopen (Janosov 1991: 85).

The ten resources identified along South River Street defined as within the APE for this project contribute to an overall Wapwallopen Historic District. Based on the history of the town's development and its relatively self-contained nature, and based upon the well-preserved extant examples of architectural styles popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the resources that comprise the potential Wapwallopen Historic District are collectively recommended eligible

for NRHP listing under Criteria A and C (see list below, with photo numbers as provided in the PHRS Form—prior submittal). No information could be located that connects this potential historic district to any significant individuals; therefore, it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The recommended boundary of the Wapwallopen Historic District includes the 77 contributing resources, and is bounded the north by the north side of South River Street, on the east by State Route 239, on the south by the south side of South Main Street, and on the west by South Main Street and South River Street, forming a generally triangular shape. This boundary is shown in the revised PHRS form for the district, previously submitted to the PHMC-BHP.

Recommended Contributing Resources

- 1-2. House at 404 S. Church Street and garage (2)
3. House at 406 S. Church Street
4. House at 408 S. Church Street
- 5-6. House at 410 S. Church Street and garage (2)
- 7-8. Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and bell (2)
9. St. John's U.C.C. (formerly St. John's Reformed Chapel)
10. House at 476 S. River Street
11. House at 480 S. River Street
- 12-13. House at 484 S. River Street and garage (2)
- 14-16. House at 486 S. River Street, garage, and outbuilding (3)
17. House at 487 S. River Street
18. House at 491 S. River Street
- 19-20. House at 494 S. River Street and garage (2)
- 21-22. House at 409 S. Main Street and shed (2)
23. House at 405 S. Main Street
24. House at 406 S. Main Street
25. House at 409 S. Main Street
- 26-27. House at 410 S. Main Street and garage (2)
- 28-29. House at 411 S. Main Street and garage (2)
30. House at 413 S. Main Street
31. House at 414 S. Main Street
32. House at 416 S. Main Street
- 33-34. House at 417 S. Main Street and garage (2)
35. House at 418 S. Main Street
36. House at 419 S. Main Street
37. House at 421 S. Main Street
38. House at 422 S. Main Street
39. House at 424 S. Main Street
40. House at 426 S. Main Street
41. House at 428 S. Main Street
42. House at 431 S. Main Street
43. House at 432 S. Main Street
44. House at 434 S. Main Street
45. E.R. Heller Milling Company
46. House at Corner of South River Street and South Main Street (Beside Heeler Gas Office)
- 47-49. House at 472 South River Street, garage, garden house, and hothouse (3)
- 50-51. House at 470 South River Street and garage (2)
- 52-53. House at 468 South River Street and garage (2)
- 54-55. House at 466 South River Street and garage (2)
- 56-57. House at 464 South River Street and garage (2)
- 58-59. House at 462 South River Street and garage (2)
- 60-62. House at 458 South River Street, garage, and outbuilding (3)

- 63-64. House at 454 South River Street and garage (2)
- 65-66. House at 452 South River Street and garage (2)
- 67-68. House at 54 Orchard Street and garage (2)
- 69-73. Heller Orchards (Orchard Street), apple house, pole barn, heavy timber frame barn, and granary
- 74. House at 425 South River Street
- 75-76. House at 423 South River Street and a garage (2)
- 77. House at 411 South River Street

We request your review of these responses and your concurrence with our recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact me at 412.476.2000 or via email at h.cole@gaiconsultants.com. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,
GAI Consultants, Inc.



Hannah L. Cole
Senior Architectural Historian

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