

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Southern Berks Region has a rich and diverse heritage that is reflected in the historic and cultural resources that are integrated within the existing land use patterns. The preservation of these historic and cultural resources is essential to establish a community bond from past generations to future generations. Since these resources are not renewable, it is essential to recognize their value and promote a future land use plan that is based upon fundamental principles in an effort to preserve, protect, and enhance their presence within the community.



Historical Profiles

Birdsboro Borough: Birdsboro was named after its founder, William Bird, who took warrants for land on Hay Creek Road and later Six Penny Creek as early as 1737. On the banks of Hay Creek, he established a forge about 1740, which was followed by other forges, as well as a sawmill and a gristmill. Between 1737 and 1751, he took up warrants for about 1,600 acres of land. Marcus Bird succeeded his father by enlarging industry along Hay Creek, and by building a furnace along French Creek at Hopewell. Marcus Bird was the largest producer of iron during the Revolutionary War. When Berks County was constituted in 1762, Birdsboro was already a town of considerable size in terms of population and land area. In 1796, Matthew Brooke purchased all of the lands owned by the Bird family, including all forges and mills. The sons of Matthew Brooke became the exclusive owners in 1837 and later became organized into the E & G Brooke Iron Company, and their influence made the growth of the town possible. Birdsboro was formed from Union and Robeson townships and incorporated into a borough in 1872.

Caernarvon Township: As with so many places between Philadelphia and Lancaster, the area was first settled by the Welsh. The word "Caernarvon" is a Welsh word, based on "Caer Yr Arfon" meaning "Fort (Caer) on the River (Arfon)". Caernarvon officially dates back to 1752, the same year Berks County was established. Caernarvon (Berks) was originally part of Caernarvon (Lancaster), but was divided to accommodate county delineation. The Village of Morgantown was named after Colonel Jacob Morgan, who laid out the town around 1770. His father, Thomas, had been a native of Wales, a captain in the French and Indian War, and owner of a large tract of choice land in Caernarvon Township. Jacob Morgan, a Philadelphia merchant, settled in this area around 1765, building a large stone house, which still stands on Hartz Road between Mineview Drive and Shiloh Road. During the late 1800's and early to mid 1900's, the region was well known for its iron ore production, which was utilized for numerous projects of national magnitude, including the iron ore that was utilized to manufacture the steel for the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. Since the arrival of the Turnpike in the 1950's, Caernarvon has changed from a quiet, mostly agrarian village, to a busy commercial and industrial center. The population has experienced a steady growth rate over the past 50 years.

Robeson Township: Andrew Robeson, a Swede was one of the first settlers of Robeson Township. He owned a significant amount of land along both sides of the Schuylkill River. Along with the Swedes, the area was also settled by Quakers and Germans. In 1729, Robeson Township was officially organized and named after Andrew Robeson. Most of the early settlements were located in close proximity to the Schuylkill River, Allegheny Creek, Hay Creek, Seidel Creek, and Indian Corn Creek. The abundance of water provided sufficient power for the operation of mills and furnaces. As industry flourished in the late 1700's and 1800's, the settlements grew into established villages known as Gibraltar (originally known as Seidelville), Geigertown, Beckersville, and Plowville. These villages were desirable based upon the regional transportation system, which evolved from the river

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

to the canal to the railroad to the automobile. As hardwood trees were removed from the valleys to support the furnaces, agricultural operations soon flourished within Robeson. During the 1900's, quarrying operations became a popular industry based upon the geology of the rolling hills in the northern and southern portions of Robeson.

Union Township: The Swedes and Germans were the first settlers of Union Township with Hans Monson taking up the first tract of land by warrant in 1684. In 1753, Union Township was established in the Court of Quarter Sessions and an initial survey was conducted of the tract. By 1759, there were an estimated 62 taxable persons in Union Township. The name of the township arose from a "union" of two sections of territory, which included a portion of Robeson Township (Berks County) and Coventry Township (Chester County). The water power along the Schuylkill River, Six Penny Creek, Hay Creek, and French Creek provided sufficient power for the operation of mills and furnaces in the early 1800's. The Hopewell Furnace and the Monocacy Furnace were considered prominent iron industries within Union. In addition, the early settlers found opportunities in agriculture, particularly in the lowland valleys of the Schuylkill River and Hay Creek. By 1824, the Schuylkill Canal was completed, providing a system for transporting coal, iron, lumber, merchandise, and produce along 108 miles between Mt. Carbon (Schuylkill County) and the City of Philadelphia. By 1870, the Schuylkill Canal became obsolete and eventually abandoned in favor of other improved transportation facilities and systems. The majority of the canals were filled in the 1950's. In 2000, the Schuylkill River was designated a National Heritage Area for the regions contribution to both the American Revolution and the Industrial Revolution.



John & Jacob Morgan Gristmill in
Caernarvon Township

Historical Sites and Resources

The Southern Berks Region contains numerous buildings and sites that have historical and cultural significance. Local officials recognize the value of conservation, preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of these historic features. Well maintained historic resources can preserve the unique identity of the Southern Berks Region, as well as provide educational and tourism opportunities.

To identify the Region's specific historic resources, the Berks County Planning Commission Historic Resources Inventory was used. This inventory includes Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Meiser, Berks Nature, and other resource data. The inventory includes 322 different sites and 21 different districts that have been identified from a local, state, and national perspective. The region has 9 National Register Listed historic resources and 21 National Register Eligible historic resources. The National Register of Historic Places is a comprehensive listing of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of historical and cultural significance to the locality, state, or nation. The following table identifies by municipality the sites in the Berks County Historic Resources Inventory with their respective historic name, data source, and National Register status. The Resource ID is the corresponding number found on the Historic Resources maps for each municipality.

List of Historic Resources

(see corresponding numbers on Historic Resources Maps)

Birdsboro Borough

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
1427	looF Lodge Hall	PHMC	Unevaluated
1429	Levi Focht House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1444	Z. Williams Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
1411	1228 & 1230 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Ineligible
1410	1224 & 1226 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Ineligible
1407	1208 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Ineligible
1409	1216 & 1218 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Ineligible
1408	1212 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Ineligible
1441	Texas; South Birdsboro	PHMC	Unevaluated
1440	St Michaels Protestant Episcopal Church Complex	PHMC	Listed
1421	F.M. Brown Mill	PHMC	Unevaluated
1420	Edward Brooke II Mansion	PHMC	Eligible
1413	Alice Focht United Methodist Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
1423	Furnace Street Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
1424	Grace United Brethern Church	PHMC	Ineligible
1418	Cora Handwork Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1436	Wilmington & Northern Railroad: Depot	PHMC	Unevaluated
1412	420 Lincoln Avenue Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1416	Charles & Margaret Layland Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1428	John Hook House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1417	Sheldonia Weiler Property; A.F. Borden Property - 1876	PHMC	Unevaluated
1433	Mercantile Building	PHMC	Unevaluated
1430	Lincoln-Focht House	PHMC	Unevaluated
6493	J. Z. Albert Carriage Factory	PHMC	Ineligible
6494	Birdsboro Village Lock-Up	PHMC	Ineligible
1422	Friendship Fire Company; Birdsboro Dispatch	PHMC	Unevaluated
6495	East Main Street Bridge over Hay Creek	PHMC	Ineligible
6496	Birdsboro Steel Foundry & Machine Company Office Building	PHMC	Ineligible
6497	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6498	Birdsboro Bridge Company Toll House	PHMC	Ineligible
1443	William Bird Mansion	PHMC	Ineligible
1425	Gristmill	Meiser	Unknown
1426	Hay Creek Aqueduct	Meiser	Unknown
1431	Lockhouse	Meiser	Unknown
1437	Railroad Station	Meiser	Unknown
1438	Schuylkill Navigation Lock #	Meiser	Unknown

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
4887	Village of Birdsboro	Meiser	Unknown
1432	Marian Millard Property; Samuel Rhodes Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
7059	Martinelli Property	PHMC	Unevaluated

Caernarvon Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
1516	Ammon Homestead	PHMC	Unevaluated
1517	Ammon's School; United Brethren Church	Meiser	Unknown
1518	Calvin Kurtz Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1521	Colonel Jacob Morgan Homestead	PHMC	Eligible
1522	Colonel Jonathan Jones Homestead	PHMC	Eligible
1523	Conestoga Hotel; Blue Rock Post Office; Bull Hotel	PHMC	Unevaluated
1530	Graham's Mill	PHMC	Ineligible
1519	Clymer Mill; Grist Mill	PHMC	Unevaluated
1534	Harmony Church; Meeting House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1536	Ira Mast Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1537	J. & S. Roberts Home	PHMC	Unevaluated
1551	Morgantown Hotel	PHMC	Unevaluated
1539	Jacob Mast Farm; Thomas Morgan Homestead	PHMC	Unevaluated
1540	John & Jacob Morgan Gristmill	PHMC	Eligible
1541	John Gabel House; Old Village Inn	PHMC	Unevaluated
1542	John Morgan House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1544	Kreiser Farm; George McGowan House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1546	Boy's Academy; Landmark Store	Meiser	Unknown
1547	Lyceum Hall	PHMC	Unevaluated
1548	Mary Hudson House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1552	Morgantown Methodist Episcopal Church; United Methodist Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
1553	Odd Fellows Hall	PHMC	Unevaluated
1556	Paul Dovin Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1557	Proudfoot House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1559	Rock Baptist Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
1560	Sands Farm	PHMC	Ineligible
1561	St Thomas; Morgantown School	PHMC	Unevaluated
1554	Mt. Shiloh United Brethren Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
1543	Jones Mine	PHMC	Unevaluated
1513	Aaron Rattew House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1515	Ames House	PHMC	Eligible

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
1545	Kurtz-Beiler Farmstead	PHMC	Eligible
1549	Mill Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
6504	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6505	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6506	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6507	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
1538	J. Kurtz Limekiln	PHMC	Eligible
1527	Francis Morgan House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1528	George Sheeler Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
1524	David Morgan House	PHMC	Unevaluated
1563	Thomas Blaszyk Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1525	Donald Zager Farm	PHMC	Eligible
1562	Stephen Kurtz Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
1555	Nathan Stoltzfus Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1535	Hertler House	PHMC	Eligible
1558	Ralph Hertzler Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
1514	Abraham Kurtz; Peter Fry House	PHMC	Ineligible
1526	Fingal Castle	Meiser	Unknown
1531	Graveyard	Meiser	Unevaluated
1532	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
7060	Shanaman House	PHMC	Ineligible
7061	Sweigard House	PHMC	Ineligible
7062	Stephen M. Beiler House	PHMC	Ineligible
7063	Morgan Trailer Manufacturing Company	PHMC	Ineligible
7064	Wallace-Lynn House	PHMC	Ineligible
7065	Delp Property	PHMC	Ineligible
7066	Chiropractic Arts Center	PHMC	Ineligible
7067	Plank Farm; Blue Springs Farm; Plank Farm Barn	PHMC	Ineligible
7068	Houck-Vieldhouse House	PHMC	Ineligible
7069	Morgan Commons	PHMC	Ineligible
7070	Volpi House	PHMC	Ineligible
7071	Smucker House	PHMC	Ineligible
7072	Samuel Jacobs Farm; Kurtland Farm	PHMC	Ineligible
7073	Yoder House	PHMC	Ineligible
7074	Renkert Property	PHMC	Ineligible
7075	Spain Property	PHMC	Ineligible
7076	El-Mor Chevrolet	PHMC	Ineligible
7077	Levi S. Beiler House; Hontz House	PHMC	Ineligible
7169	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Robeson Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6294	Avondale Farm	BCPC	Unknown
4882	Allegheny Aqueduct	PHMC	Listed
4883	Band Building	Meiser	Unknown
4884	Beidler House And Mill Site	PHMC	Eligible
4885	Bethel Evangelical Church	Meiser	Unknown
4888	Bitler Farm	PHMC	Eligible
4976	St John's United Church Of Christ	PHMC	Unevaluated
4983	W.R. Updike Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4984	White Bear Tavern	PHMC	Eligible
6326	Gauger, Frank, Property	PHMC	Ineligible
6327	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6328	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6329	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
4978	Thompson Mill	PHMC	Listed
6331	S.R. 82 Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6332	Railroad Bridge S.R. 82	PHMC	Ineligible
6333	Bridge over Allegheny Creek	PHMC	Ineligible
6334	Bridge on S.R. 724 (Main St) over Allegheny Creek	PHMC	Ineligible
6336	Birdsboro Reservoir	PHMC	Ineligible
6337	Dyer Quarry/Birdsboro Reservoir	PHMC	Ineligible
6338	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6339	Reading Railroad Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6340	Bridge at Station 365 and 42	PHMC	Ineligible
4889	Blanche Steinmetz Property; Planck Mill	PHMC	Unevaluated
4891	C. Gollub Property; Schoolhouse	PHMC	Unevaluated
4892	C. Hyback Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4893	Canal Hotel	Meiser	Unknown
4896	Charles & Esther Gundy Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4897	Charles Hamilton Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4898	Christine Lang Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4899	D.M. Hartranft House	PHMC	Unevaluated
4900	Daniel Siegfried Gun Factory	Meiser	Unknown
4901	David Hoffman Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4902	Dodson Driesbach Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4903	Dowell Forges #1 1825; Seidel;s Forges 1853	PHMC	Unevaluated
4904	Dowell Forges #2	PHMC	Unevaluated
4905	Elizabeth Scatchard Property	PHMC	Unevaluated

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
4906	Emerson Gundy Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4908	Eugene Burkhart Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4909	F.M Weaver Foundry	Meiser	Unknown
4910	Fanny Fry Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4911	Forest Church; Robeson Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
4912	Forge west side of creek	Meiser	Unknown
4913	Franklin Forge; Thompson's Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4914	Friedens Cemetery & Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
4915	Friends Meeting House	Meiser	Unknown
4946	Mary A. Eshelman Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4916	Shown as Grist Mill 1860	Meiser	Unknown
4917	Geiger Mill	PHMC	Listed
4918	Geoffrey Tyson Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4919	George Sterner Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4920	George Sterner Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4923	Gibraltar Hotel	PHMC	Unevaluated
4924	Gristmill Henry Thompson Mill	Meiser	Unknown
4926	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
4927	Graveyard; Bethel Church	Meiser	Unknown
4928	Griffith Tilt Forge; Hay Creek Forge; Sands Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4929	H. Keinard Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4966	Scarlet's Gristmill	Meiser	Unknown
4931	Harold Bixler Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4932	Harold Kurtz Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4930	Hampton Forge; Hampton Furnace	PHMC	Unevaluated
4935	Irvin Kocher Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4937	Joanna Furnace Complex	PHMC	Listed
4938	Joanna Heights Camp Meeting	PHMC	Unevaluated
4939	John Koch Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4940	John P. Fehr Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4941	L. Kocher Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4943	Log Cabin	Meiser	Unknown
4945	Lower Allegheny Schoolhouse	Meiser	Unknown
4947	Mary Yocum Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4949	Naomi Village Hotel	Meiser	Unknown
4950	Old Allegheny School	PHMC	Unevaluated
4951	Seifrit's Grist Mill; Old Mill Inn	PHMC	Unevaluated
4952	Olga Drobeck Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4953	Patriotic Order Sons of America Hall	PHMC	Unevaluated

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
4955	Plow Hotel	PHMC	Unevaluated
4956	Plow School	PHMC	Unevaluated
4957	Plowville Post Office & General Store	PHMC	Unevaluated
4958	Red Roofed Forge	Meiser	Unknown
4960	Robert Tuckey Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4962	Rt. 10 House	PHMC	Unevaluated
4963	Ruth Gundy Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4964	Sally Glass Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4968	Schoolhouse	PHMC	Unevaluated
4969	Schuylkill Canal Aqueduct	Meiser	Unknown
4970	Seideltown School; Thompson's School	PHMC	Unevaluated
4973	Shields Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4974	Simon Seyfert Mansion	Meiser	Unknown
4985	White Horse Hotel	Meiser	Unknown
4986	William Moyer Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4987	Wolf Forge	Meiser	Unknown
4988	Zion Evangelical Church	Meiser	Unknown
4890	Buck Hollow Rd House	PHMC	Unevaluated
4895	listed Forge 1860	Meiser	Unknown
4907	Ethel Clouser Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4925	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
4942	Larry Ketterer Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4944	Lottie Detorre Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4948	Moore Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4959	Robert Redzig Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
4965	listed as Brown's Tilt Forge	Meiser	Unknown
4934	Holiness Church at Seyfert	Meiser	Unknown
4972	Seyfert Ironworks; Seyfert Rolling Mills	PHMC	Unevaluated
4922	Gibraltar Forge #2; Seyfert Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4971	Seyfert Iron Forge & Rolling Mill	PHMC	Unevaluated
4967	Scarlets Mill Bridge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4921	Gibraltar Forge #1; Lewis Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
4954	Trap Rock Bridge at Station 328 & 82	PHMC	Eligible
6723	Beckersville P.O.; Emily's Pub	BCPC	Unknown
6724	C. Hart House	BCPC	Unknown
6725	House	BCPC	Unknown
6726	Haws Farm	PHMC	Eligible
6727	Building	BCPC	Unknown
6728	Keinhard House	BCPC	Unknown

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6729	Rock Hollow School House	BCPC	Unknown
6731	William Pierce House	PHMC	Unevaluated
6732	Building	BCPC	Unknown
6733	Mill	BCPC	Unknown
6734	Mill Site	BCPC	Unknown
6735	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
6736	J. Bower House	BCPC	Unknown
6737	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
6738	S.W. Kerst	BCPC	Unknown
6739	School House White Bear	BCPC	Unknown
6740	T.C. Bellman House; Herb Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
6741	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
6742	Westley	BCPC	Unknown
6743	"Georgia"; Mary Miller House	BCPC	Unknown
6744	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
6745	Bitler House 2	BCPC	Unknown
6746	No name	BCPC	Unknown
6747	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
6748	No Name	BCPC	Unknown
7134	Schutz House	PHMC	Unevaluated
7135	Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
7136	Mullen Hollow Road Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
7137	Redcay Farm	PHMC	Eligible
7138	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
7139	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
7140	Middle Allegheny Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
7141	Samuel Robeson Farm	PHMC	Eligible
7142	2133 Hay Creek Road Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
7143	Old Seton Road Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
7170	Twin Clingan Mansion	PHMC	Unevaluated

Union Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5469	R. Jones Farm; Morris House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5453	Jones Farm c.1850-1860; Rigg Farm 1876	PHMC	Unevaluated
5480	St Michael's Cemetery & Chapel	PHMC	Unevaluated
5431	Black Bear Tavern	PHMC	Unevaluated
5484	Sycamore Farms	PHMC	Unevaluated

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5454	Kerlin Property; Yocum House; Yocum Dairy Farm; J. Nyman House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5452	John & Dorothy Ratkis Property	PHMC	Unevaluated
5467	Mullen Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5459	Miller Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5476	Sixpenny Forge; Clinton Forge; Zachariah Forge	PHMC	Unevaluated
5433	Brower Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5482	St Paul's Mission Roman Catholic Chapel	PHMC	Unevaluated
5448	Hahn Home	PHMC	Unevaluated
5486	Unionville Aqueduct	PHMC	Unevaluated
5440	French Creek SP - Park Office	PHMC	Ineligible
5439	French Creek SP - Organized Group Camp 4	PHMC	Listed
5471	Reifsnnyder Home	PHMC	Unevaluated
5490	Wamsher's Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5442	Geiger Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5475	Six Penny Bridge	PHMC	Unevaluated
5488	Valentine Boyer Tract	PHMC	Unevaluated
5463	Monocacy Furnace; Teresa Furnace	PHMC	Unevaluated
5438	Flannery's Tavern; Brinton Lodge	PHMC	Unevaluated
5479	St James Evangelical Lutheran Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
5472	Root Farm; Brower Home Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5443	Geiger Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5485	Sycamore Farms; Wanger House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5487	Unionville Hotel; Brower's Inn	PHMC	Unevaluated
5462	Moch Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5489	Wamsher Farm; Forest Hunt Club	PHMC	Unevaluated
5483	Sycamore Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5455	Kerst Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5464	Monocacy Methodist Episcopal Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
5445	Geigertown Hotel	PHMC	Unevaluated
5481	St Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church	PHMC	Unevaluated
5458	Michael Lynch House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5451	J. Kelso Farm	PHMC	Unevaluated
5461	Miller House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5470	Red Corner Road Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
5460	Miller House	PHMC	Unevaluated
5474	Schuylkill Navigation Canal Flood Gate	PHMC	Unevaluated
6783	D. Yocum Farm	PHMC	Ineligible
6784	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6785	House at 319 Yocum Road	PHMC	Ineligible
6786	House at 53 Unionville Road	PHMC	Ineligible
6787	Bridge	PHMC	Eligible
6788	House at 315 Yocum Road	PHMC	Ineligible
6789	House at 66 Black Matt Road	PHMC	Ineligible
6790	Mickle Barn	PHMC	Unevaluated
6791	S. Yocum House and Barn Complex	PHMC	Ineligible
5432	Black Matt's Schoolhouse	Meiser	Unknown
5434	Brower Store / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
5436	Civil War Era Foundry	Meiser	Unknown
5437	Clinton Forge	Meiser	Unknown
5446	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
5447	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
5450	Hotel / Store / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
5465	Mt Airy Schoolhouse	Meiser	Unknown
5468	Port Union Canal Store	Meiser	Unknown
5473	Schuylkill Canal Warehouse	Meiser	Unknown
5477	St Frisby AME Church	Meiser	Unknown
5478	St Frisby Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
5491	Warehouse Dock Boat Building Basin	Meiser	Unknown
5492	Wenger's Mill; Flannery's Mill	Meiser	Unknown
5493	William Kerlin's Gun Barrel Shop	Meiser	Unknown
7160	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
7161	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
5457	Mansion House	PHMC	Unevaluated

List of Historic Districts

(See numbers corresponding numbers on Historic Resources Maps)

Birdsboro Borough

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
1414	Birdsboro Iron Industry; E & G Brooke Ironworks	PHMC	Eligible
1415	Brooklyn	PHMC	Unevaluated
1434	Mexico (Section of Birdsboro)	PHMC	Unevaluated
1435	Mill Street Workers' Houses	PHMC	Unevaluated
6305	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad	PHMC	Unevaluated
6330	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad: Reading Beltline Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6335	Schuylkill Navigation Company Canal (Port Carbon to Philadelphia)	PHMC	Eligible

Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6341	Wilmington and Northern Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6393	Pennsylvania Railroad Schuylkill Valley Branch	PHMC	Ineligible
6499	West Main Street	PHMC	Ineligible

Caernarvon Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
1550	Morgantown Historic District; Old Main Street Historic District; Village of Morgantown	PHMC	Listed
6341	Wilmington and Northern Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6509	Pennsylvania Turnpike	PHMC	Eligible
6642	Wilmington and Northern Railroad (aggregate file)	PHMC	Unevaluated

Robeson Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6305	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad	PHMC	Unevaluated
6330	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad: Reading Beltline Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6335	Schuylkill Navigation Company Canal (Port Carbon to Philadelphia)	PHMC	Eligible
6341	Wilmington and Northern Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6393	Pennsylvania Railroad Schuylkill Valley Branch	PHMC	Ineligible
6429	Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad	PHMC	Unevaluated
6642	Wilmington and Northern Railroad (aggregate file)	PHMC	Unevaluated
7144	French Creek State Park	PHMC	Unevaluated

Union Township

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5435	Village of Browerstown	PHMC	Unevaluated
5441	French Creek SP - Six Penny Day Use District	PHMC	Listed
5444	Village Of Geigertown; Geiger's Mill	PHMC	Unevaluated
5449	Hopewell Village National Historic Site; Hopewell Furnace	PHMC	Listed
5466	Village of Mt. Airy	PHMC	Unevaluated
6341	Wilmington and Northern Railroad	PHMC	Ineligible
6380	Schuylkill River Desilting Project	PHMC	Eligible
6393	Pennsylvania Railroad Schuylkill Valley Branch	PHMC	Ineligible
6642	Wilmington and Northern Railroad (aggregate file)	PHMC	Unevaluated
6643	Schuylkill Canal (aggregate file)	PHMC	Unevaluated
7144	French Creek State Park	PHMC	Unevaluated

*National Register Status Defined

Listed: Historical site/district is listed on the National Register.

Eligible: Historical site/district is considered eligible according to the PA State Historic Preservation Office.

Ineligible: Historical site/district is considered not eligible according to the PA State Historic Preservation Office.

Unevaluated: The PA State Historic Preservation Office has record of the historical site/district, but it has never been evaluated to determine if the site/district should or should not be considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

Unknown: This is not a National Register Status. This status signifies a historical site/district identified by George Meiser, IX or surveys returned to the Berks County Planning Commission that are not identified in the National Register database or by the PA State Historic Preservation Office, but are still historically significant to Berks County.

Historical Sites of Regional Significance

Hopewell National Historic Site: The site features a cold-blast furnace restored to its 1830s appearance. Hopewell Furnace serves as an example of an early American iron-making community. Ore for the furnace was obtained from the local area. The iron produced was used to make many items, including arms used by American patriots during the Revolutionary War period. The air needed to keep the furnace burning was provided by bellows powered by a huge water wheel that gathered its strength from the waters of French Creek. During summer months, costumed historical interpreters demonstrate, describe, and tell the story of Hopewell's iron-making years (1771-1883).

Joanna Furnace Complex: This site was originally built in 1791 as a vital iron production facility for the region for over 100 years. The Joann Furnace complex also serves as an example of an early American iron-making community. Presently, the Hay Creek Valley Association owns and maintains this complex, which was officially listed on the National Historic Registry on April 23, 1980. As restoration efforts continue at this site, a person can literally take a step back in time and visualize the integrity of the past.

Historical and Cultural Resources Planning

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has enacted the following two (2) laws, which provide the legal foundation for municipalities to protect and preserve historical resources:

Pennsylvania Act 167: The Pennsylvania Historical District Act (PA Act 167 of 1961) authorizes municipalities to establish local historical districts in an effort to protect and preserve the historic and architectural character through regulations for the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or razing of buildings or structures within the historical district. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) must certify the creation of the historical district and the municipalities are required to appoint a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) to advise the local governing body of building or construction activity within the historical district.

Pennsylvania Act 247: The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA Act 247 of 1968, as amended) authorizes municipalities to use zoning regulations to protect and preserve places of historical resources. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code specifically provides for the regulation of places having historical,

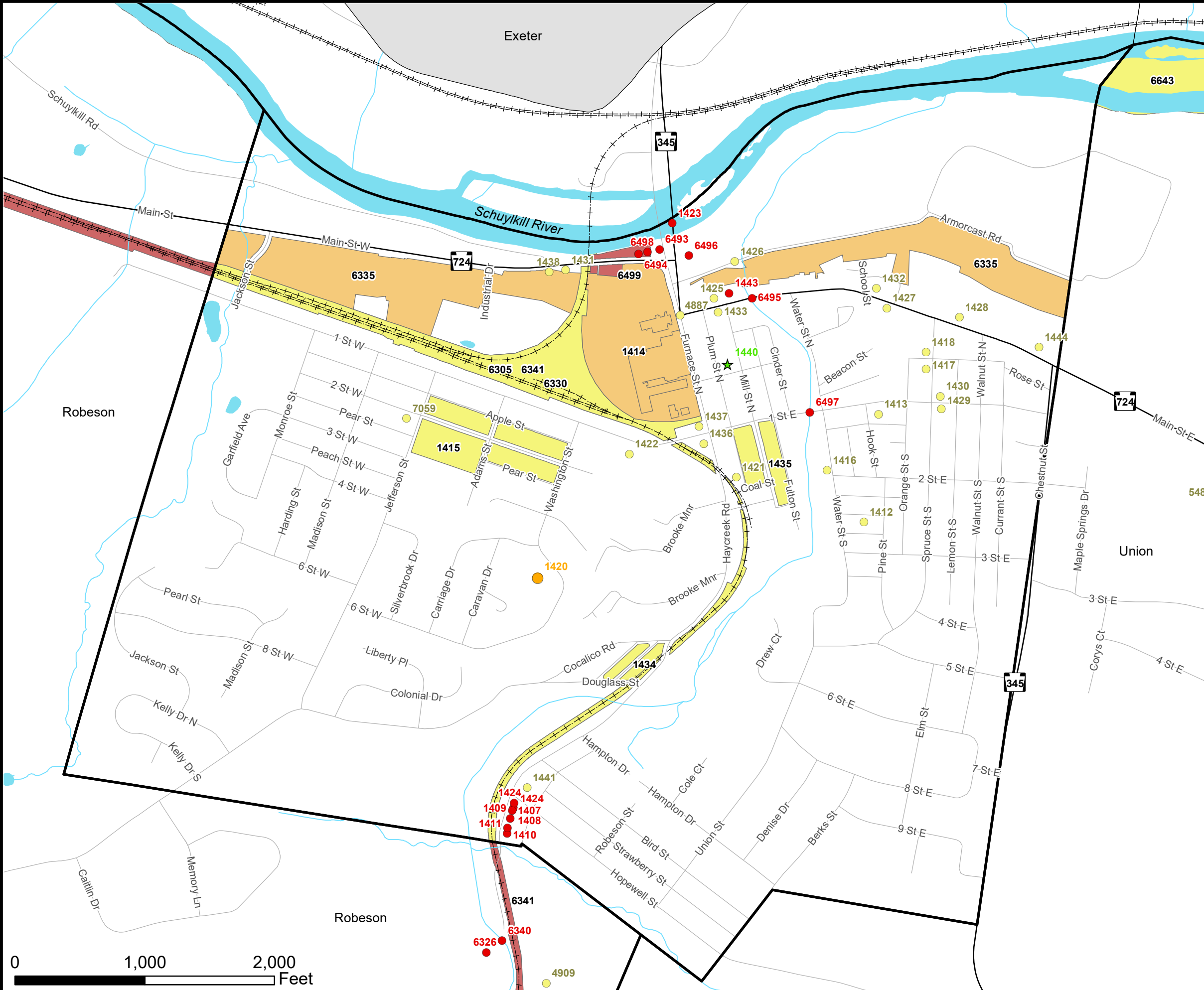
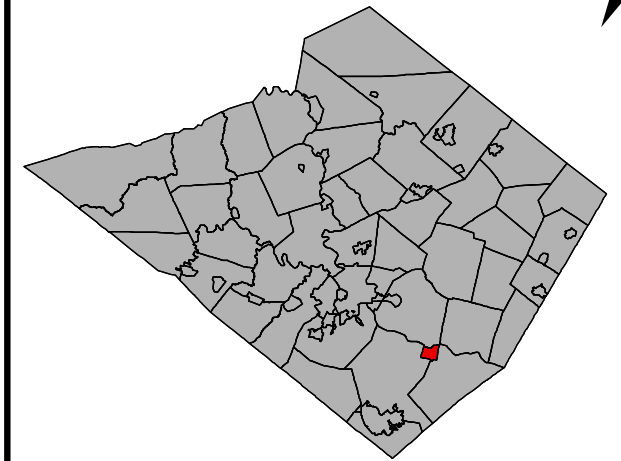
Chapter 6 - Historical and Cultural Resources

architectural, or patriotic interest or value to the community. Historic preservation zoning provisions may be applied to specific sites within a historic overlay zone. Special permits and review procedures may also be established by the municipality.

In order to implement the community planning goals for historical protection and preservation established in Chapter 2, the following strategies are recommended:

1. Formulate and adopt an official policy statement for the protection and preservation of historical resources within the Southern Berks Region.
2. Appoint a local and/or regional HARB to initially document the historical and cultural resources within the Southern Berks Region.
3. Coordinate planning efforts with the PHMC, Berks County Historic Preservation Trust, Berks County Planning Commission, Hay Creek Valley Historical Commission, Schuylkill River Greenway Association, Natural Lands Trust, and other state, county, or local groups who share similar visions for the protection and preservation of historical and cultural resources.
4. Conduct a municipal survey of all known or potential sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, and land areas, which have historical and cultural significance. The PHMC provides local assistance in the preparation of such surveys. The recommended procedures and survey format are further documented in *Guidelines for Historic Resource Surveys in Pennsylvania*.
5. Solicit qualified consultants in the fields of historic preservation, architecture, and planning to review the results of the survey and prioritize the significance of the historical and cultural resources.
6. Develop a draft list of short-term and long-term strategies that will protect and preserve each historical and cultural resource.
7. Establish a community education program on the benefits of effective historical protection and preservation efforts. As part of this effort, meet with the owners and tenants of the historical sites with the highest significance to gain support and discuss preservation strategies.
8. Identify potential funding opportunities, which could provide financial assistance for historic preservation activities within the Southern Berks Region.
9. Consider establishing historic overlay districts for selected areas within Birdsboro, Morgantown, and Hopewell. Appoint a local or regional HARB to advise the local governing bodies of building or construction activity within the historical district. As part of this process, develop ordinances with standards and specifications for historical protection and preservation.
10. Consider the adoption of effective zoning, subdivision, and land development amendments, which consider provisions for buffer yards, scenic vistas, adaptive reuse, demolition by neglect, landscaping, signs, and other visual enhancements within historic overlay districts.
11. Promote tourism opportunities within established historical districts.
12. Promote adequate buffer areas around prominent and culturally significant historical sites to retain the character and setting of the site and minimize the encroachment of new development that may have an adverse effect on the overall integrity of the site.

Historic Resources Birdsboro Borough



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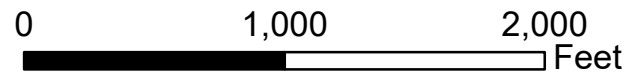
- National Register Listed
- National Register Eligible
- National Register Ineligible
- Other Historic Sites*
- National Register Listed
- National Register Eligible
- National Register Ineligible
- Other Historic Districts*
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Roads
- Railroads
- Streams and Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

* Includes national registered status of unevaluated or unknown sites identified by surveys conducted from one or more of the following groups: Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Berks Nature, George Meiser and local historical societies.

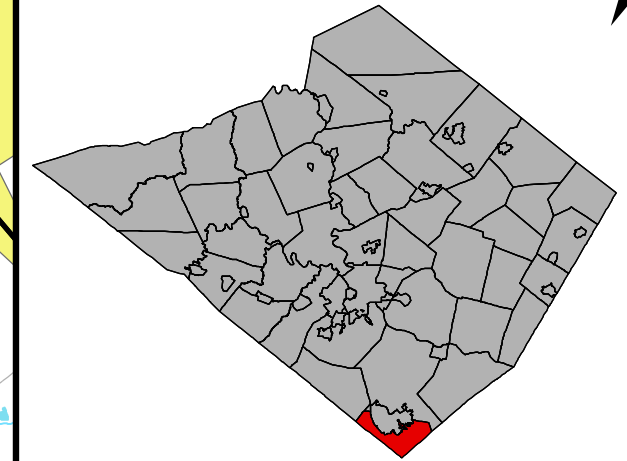
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Historic Resources Caernarvon Township



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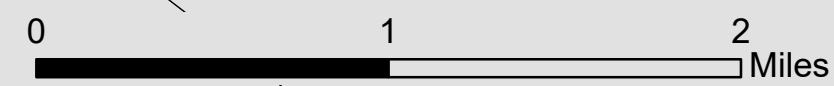
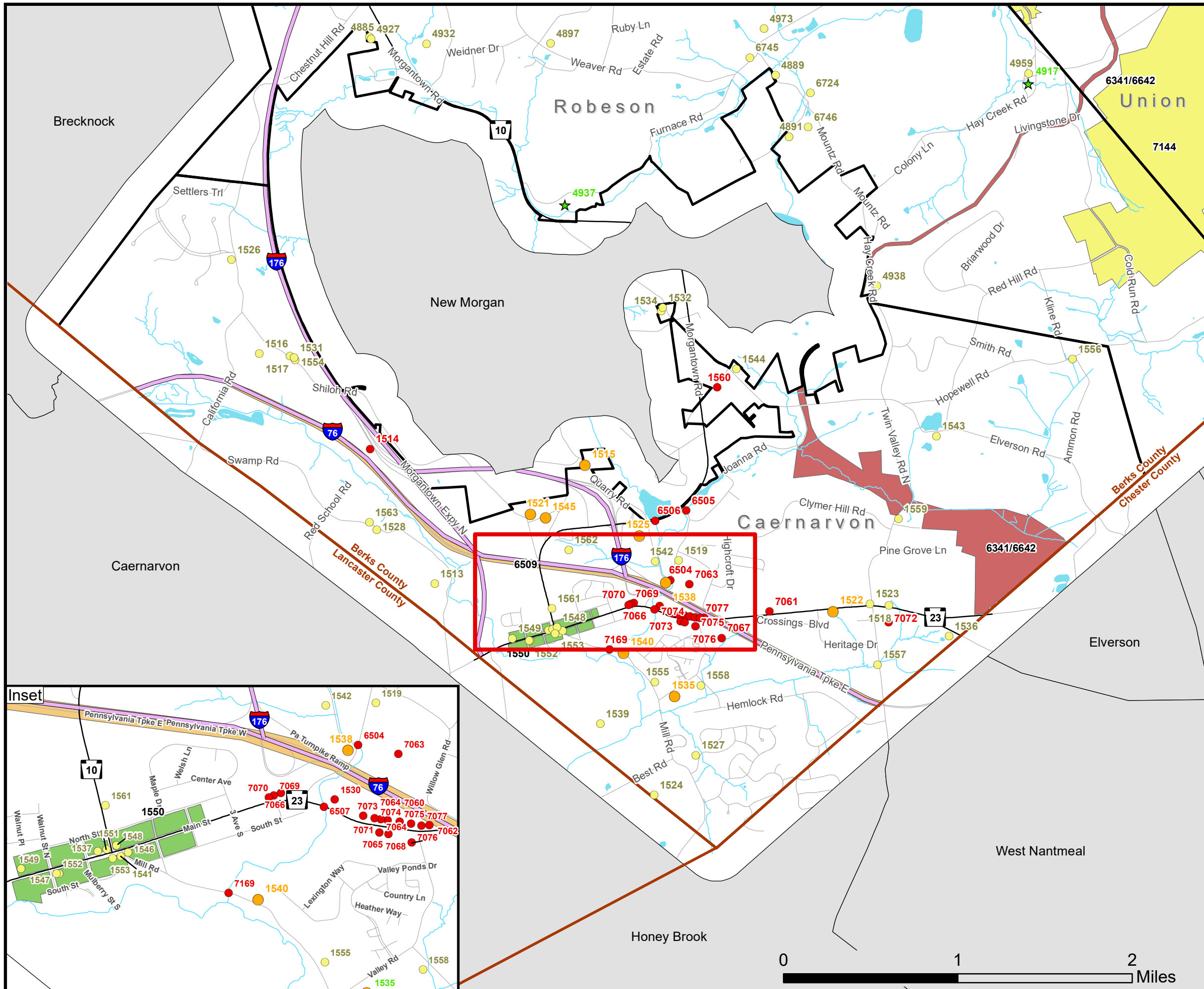
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- National Register Ineligible
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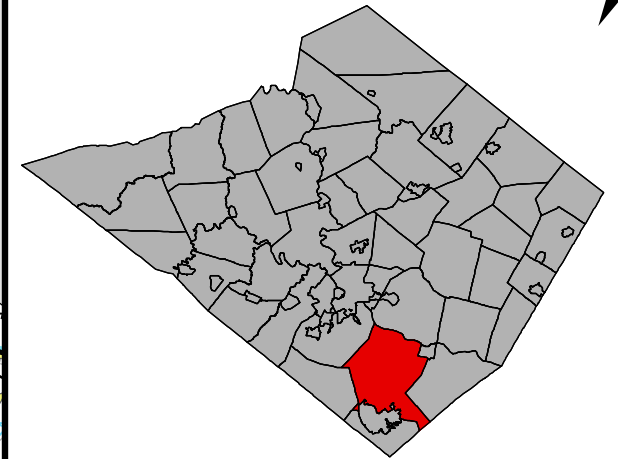
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Historic Resources Robeson Township



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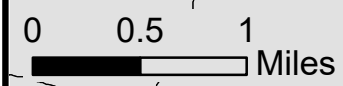
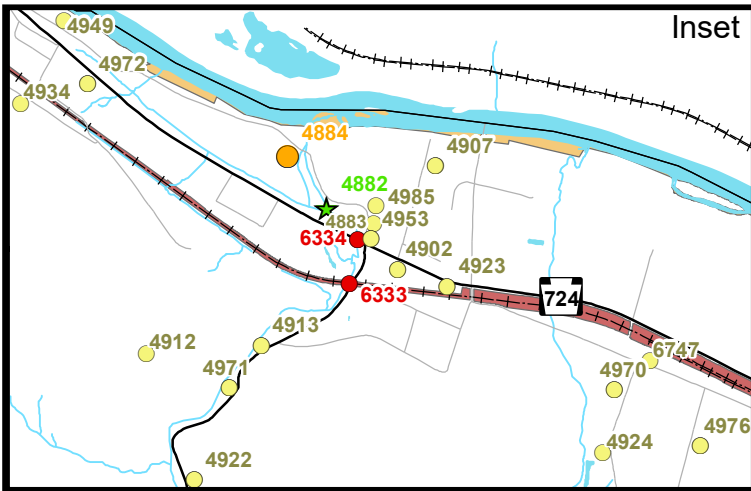
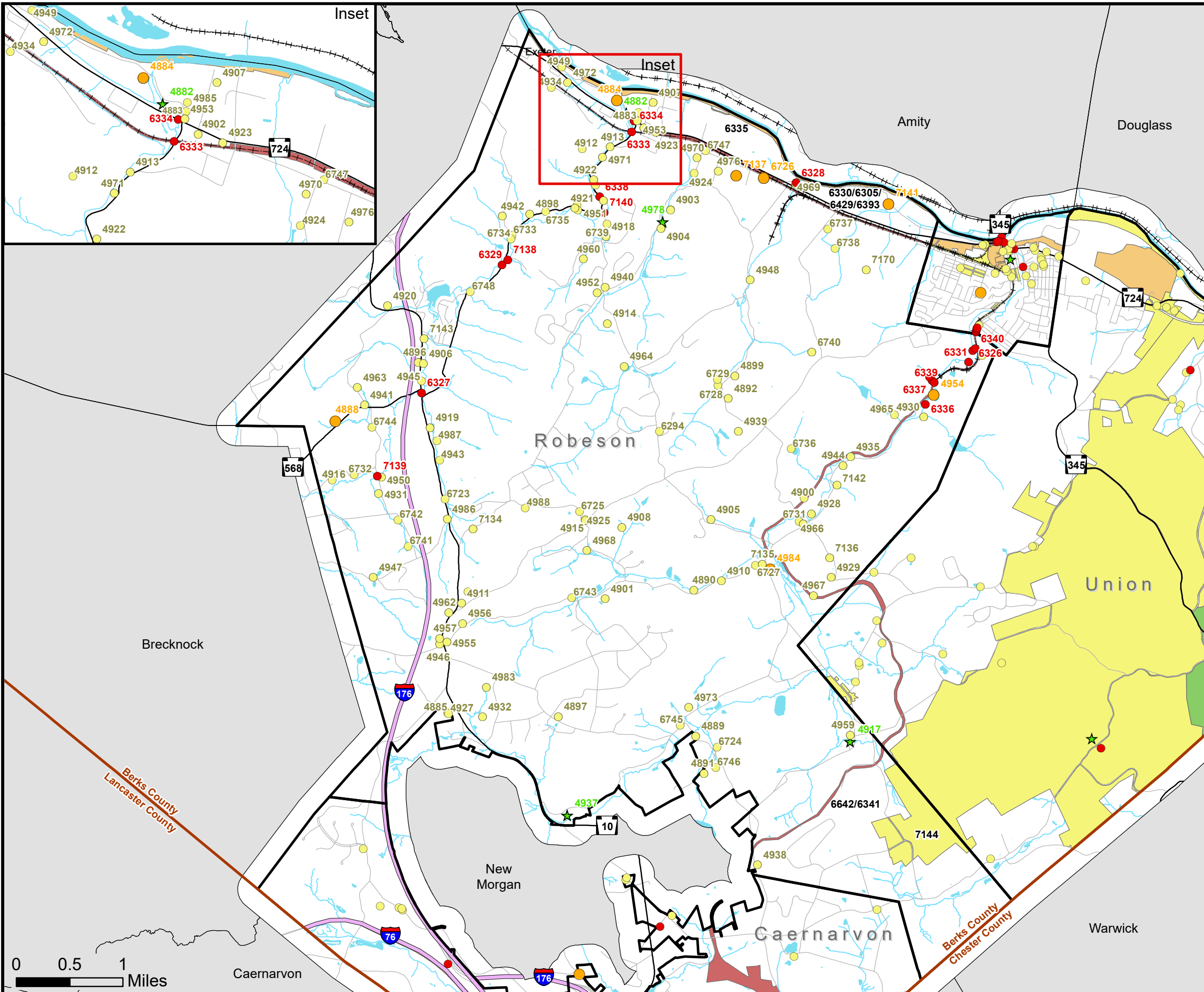
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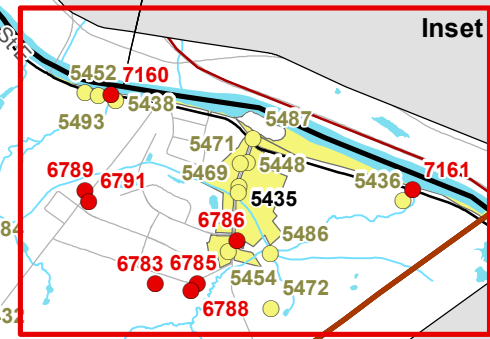
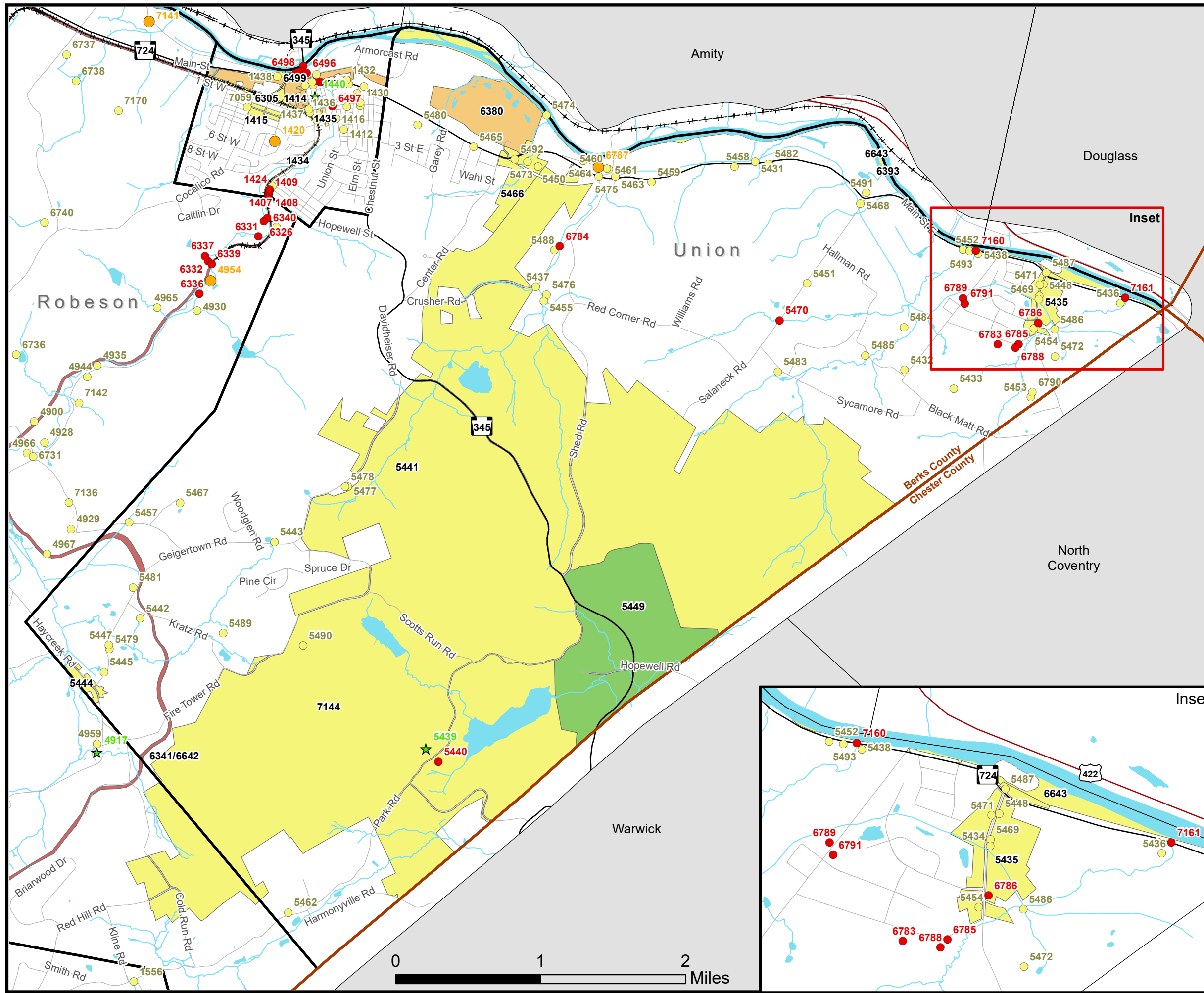
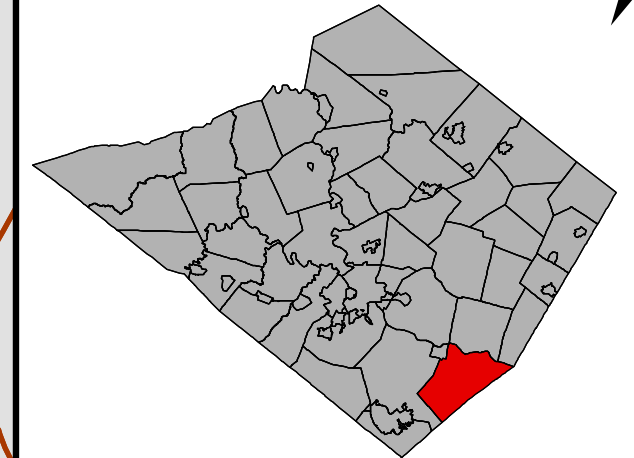
Source data: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County GIS/IS, Berks County Mapping, Berks DES

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Historic Resources Union Township



Legend

- National Register Listed
- National Register Eligible
- National Register Ineligible
- Other Historic Sites*
- National Register Listed
- National Register Eligible
- National Register Ineligible
- Other Historic Districts*
- Interstate
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