
CULTURAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Introduction

A community's cultural resources provide a window into its development and heritage. The identification of these resources is a valuable tool for historic and archaeological preservation efforts, development of community focal areas, and education of younger generations. The understanding of the planning area's historic development is also a useful reference in planning its future. Figures 13 through 16; Historic Sites and Districts, shows the general location of sites of historic significance in the townships. Locations of historic properties are approximate and intended for general planning purposes; corrections should be forwarded to the Berks County Planning Commission for future map updates.



Kriebel's Mill

Properties Listed or Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Federal and state historic preservation laws require federal and state agencies to consider the effects of their actions on all historic and prehistoric sites, districts, buildings, and structures eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Park Service, "The National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources." Federal legal mandates include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Executive Order 11593 of 1971 that expanded preservation standards of the cultural environment, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Pennsylvania's legal mandates include the Environmental Right Amendment, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Act of 1978.

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission's (PHMC) Bureau for Historic Preservation develops, coordinates, and administers the program to identify, protect and enhance buildings, structures, sites, districts and neighborhoods of historic and architectural significance in public and private ownership throughout the Commonwealth. The Bureau provides federally mandated professional staff to support the activities of the State Historic Preservation Officer to receive federal historic preservation funds and implement the National Historic Preservation Program throughout the Commonwealth. The Bureau also administers PHMC grants for museums and local history projects.

National Register properties are evaluated according to uniform standards; they include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Listing on the National Register has a number of benefits for a community. It offers recognition of a property's significance, receives consideration in the planning of federal projects, eligible for federal tax benefits, and qualifies for federal historic preservation funding. In the Hereford Washington planning area there are four properties currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and three that are eligible to be placed on the register.

To identify the Region's specific historic sites, the Berks County Planning Commission Historic Resources Inventory was used. This inventory includes PHMC, Meiser, Berks Nature, and other resource data. "Meiser" sites, as they are known, come from the work of George Meiser, IX who is a prominent author and well respected historian born and raised in Berks County. The Berks County Historic Resources Inventory includes 145 different sites and 12 different districts that have been identified as important from a local, State and National perspective. The Region has four sites and two districts listed on the National Register.

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Sites of State and County Significance

In addition to the properties listed and eligible for the National Register, there are a number of locally significant, historically or architecturally prominent properties in the planning area. These properties have not applied for eligibility to the National Register but are recognized as significant by PHMC and Berks Nature. PHMC has identified 74 historic resources in its Pennsylvania Historic Resources Inventory (mostly farms and homesteads) in Hereford Township. There are 49 historic resources located in Washington Township. These sites, as well as properties on the National Register of Historic Places, are found on the Historic Sites and Districts maps at the end of this chapter.

Historic Districts

The Historic District Act of 1961 established Historic Districts in Pennsylvania. The historic district designation empowers municipalities to protect the distinctive historical character of a given area, by regulating the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or razing of buildings within the historic districts. There are twelve Historic Districts in the planning area, excluding the railroad districts that traverse the area. Six of these districts are in Hereford Township and six are in Washington Township. As shown on the tables on page 102 two Historic Districts in Hereford and Washington Townships are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These areas have historically served as community and agricultural centers. Today, they are intersections or small areas of historic architecture in a unique setting. These districts draw residents and local tourists alike.

Archaeological Resources

According to the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, an archaeological site is “all evidences of past human activity or occupation which can be used to reconstruct the lifeways of past peoples. These include features, artifacts, environmental and all other relevant information, and the contexts in which they occur. Archaeological sites can be prehistoric Native American, as well as historic period Native American and European.” (Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations, Revised May 2016, p. 46)

Archaeological resources are identified and inventoried by PHMC. PHMC records these resources in their CRGIS (Cultural Resources Geographic Information System). Cultural Resources, according to PHMC, is “a term used to cover all of the resources that are considered by the National Register of Historic Places and includes: historic buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts; archaeological sites and districts; cultural landscapes; traditional cultural properties.” While all of these resources are recorded in one location, PHMC recognizes the different recording needs among the different cultural resources and provides forms for submittal for the various resource types. These forms and files are continually updated as new resources are identified through survey projects, National Register listings, reports generated through the Section 106 and History Code compliance process and submissions from private property owners. Although archaeological resources have not been directly identified, there is a probability that there may be some artifacts found in areas of the Townships, due to its extensive Native American and colonial history.

Local/County Inventories and Preservation Groups

Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area

The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area (SRGNHA) strives to conserve, interpret and develop the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources related to the industrial and cultural heritage of the Schuylkill River Valley.

In 2000, Congress designated the Schuylkill River Valley as a National Heritage Area with the passage of the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Act (S. 1584). This Act expanded the geographic area for such a designation from the Schuylkill River corridor to the entire Schuylkill River Watershed. According to SRGNHA,

the benefits of this designation are: The preservation and enhancement of historic and environmental resources, heritage tourism-related economic development, community awareness of and pride in heritage resources, and the eligibility for federal matching funds. The Schuylkill River Valley is now recognized as a significant contributor to the nation's political, cultural, and industrial development. This designation led the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA), managed by the Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area (SRGNHA), to complete a Management Action Plan in 2003 to help further define its mission, vision, goals, strategies, and priorities. Projected to be completed in 2017, SRHA is developing a strategic plan to evaluate the progress made by the goals in the 2003 plan. This new plan further established new milestones to reach during 2017-2026.

Berks Nature

Berks Nature, previously known as the Berks County Conservancy, was established as a non-profit membership organization in 1974, with a mission to preserve Berks County's cultural and environmental heritage for the benefit of future generations. Berks Nature has focused its efforts on preserving agricultural land and open space; protecting the quality of our streams and ground water; preserving historic landmarks and scenic landscapes; and by promoting those values which contribute to a sustainable future for the communities within Berks County. Berks Nature holds two conservation easements in Washington Township and 4 conservation easements in Hereford Township.

Berks County Planning Commission

The Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) adopted the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan in December, 2007. The plan "recommends the protection and preservation of historic sites and districts on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places." The plan identifies and provides recommendations for historic resources in each of the five planning regions established in the plan.

In addition to the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan, the BCPC has been working to develop an inventory of historic resources in Berks County for municipal and public use. Using data obtained from PHMC, Berks Nature, Meiser, local historic societies, and volunteers the BCPC has developed an interactive web-based map that identifies historic sites, structures, buildings, and districts in Berks County. The map is available on the Berks County Planning Commission website.

To aid in BCPC's historic resources inventory and help promote and implement historic preservation goals in the Berks County Comprehensive Plan, the BCPC and Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March, 2013.

Township Historical Committees

The Washington Township Historical Society was founded in 1990 with the mission to preserve and promote the heritage of Washington Township and adjacent areas of Barto, Bally, and the Butter Valley. The group has produced two publications outlining the history of structures and genealogy of the Township.

The Hereford Township Heritage Society was created in 2003 for the "purpose of preserving, collecting, and displaying historical artifacts." Their objective is to educate the public and residents of Hereford Township about the history that exists within the Township to further promote and preserve the heritage of the area. In addition, the Hereford Township Heritage Society has a published book, *Early Times in Hereford Township*, with over 360 photographs between the time period of 1848-1956.

Historic Inventory

The following identifies those sites in the Berks County Historic Resources database with their respective municipality, name, data source, and National Register status:

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List of Historic Resources (See numbers on Historic Resources Maps)

Hereford

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
2131	893 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Undetermined
2132	994 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2133	950 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Undetermined
2134	965 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2135	966 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Undetermined
2136	969 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2137	973 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2138	978 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2139	979 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2140	980 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2141	981 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Undetermined
2142	982 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2143	984 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Undetermined
2144	986 Gravel Pike	PHMC	Ineligible
2145	Adam Fink Farmstead	PHMC	Undetermined
2146	Adam Funk House	PHMC	Undetermined
2147	Alfred Butz House	PHMC	Ineligible
2148	Bauers Tilt Hammer	Meiser	Unknown
2149	Bittnebender House	PHMC	Undetermined
2150	Cab Frye's Tavern	PHMC	Undetermined
2151	Christman Gristmill	PHMC	Undetermined
2152	Clayton Hotel	Meiser	Unknown
2153	Clayton Store, Clayton Tavern	PHMC	Undetermined
2154	Clayton Store, Clayton Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
2155	Clemmer Mill	PHMC	Undetermined
2156	Daniel Bechtel House	PHMC	Undetermined
2157	Daniel Wegner House	PHMC	Undetermined
2158	Fisher's Tavern	PHMC	Undetermined
2159	Fox Hollow Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
2160	Gehman Hill	PHMC	Undetermined
2161	Gehman Tract	PHMC	Undetermined
2162	General Store, Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
2163	George & Faith Baver Property	PHMC	Eligible
2164	Gilberg's Store	Meiser	Unknown
2165	Graveyard	Meiser	Unknown
2166	Gressley House	PHMC	Ineligible
2167	Harvey Leshner House	PHMC	Ineligible

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Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
2168	Henry & Susanna Hoffman House	PHMC	Undetermined
2169	Hereford Church; Huff's Church	PHMC	Undetermined
2170	Hereford Furnace, Maybury Furnace	PHMC	Undetermined
2171	Hereford Hotel	PHMC	Undetermined
2172	Hereford Hotel	PHMC	Undetermined
2173	Hereford School House	PHMC	Undetermined
2174	Hereford Store / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
2176	Hiestand House	PHMC	Ineligible
2177	Huff's Chapel	Meiser	Unknown
2179	Huff's Church Hotel	PHMC	Undetermined
2180	Huff's Church Store	PHMC	Undetermined
2181	Hunter Forge	PHMC	Undetermined
2182	Hunter's Mill, Rush's Mill	PHMC	Listed
2184	John Gehman Farm	PHMC	Listed
2185	John Schiffert House	PHMC	Undetermined
2186	Kriebel Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
2187	Kriebel Mill	PHMC	Undetermined
2188	Martin Bechtel Homestead	PHMC	Undetermined
2189	Mensch Mill	PHMC	Eligible
2190	Moyer-Seisholtz Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
2192	Perryville Hotel	Meiser	Unknown
2193	Perryville Store / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
2194	Richard Gregory House	PHMC	Undetermined
2195	Richard-Letterhouse-Stierly Pro	PHMC	Undetermined
2196	Richland	PHMC	Undetermined
2197	Robert Wagner Property	PHMC	Undetermined
2198	Schultz Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
2199	Schwenkfelder Cemetery	PHMC	Undetermined
2202	Stauffer Road Property	PHMC	Undetermined
2203	Thompson Forge, Rush's Forge	PHMC	Undetermined
2204	Tim Noble Property	PHMC	Undetermined
2205	Tollgate Road	PHMC	Undetermined
2206	Treichler Gristmill	Meiser	Unknown
2207	Treichler Homestead	PHMC	Undetermined
2209	Wellers Forge	PHMC	Undetermined
2210	Wiegner-Schelly House, Grubb Residence	PHMC	Eligible
5924	Warren Backenstoe Farm, Barthmeier Property	BCPC	Undetermined
6631	Geisinger Barn	PHMC	Unknown
6632	Perkiomen Railroad (Emmaus Junction to Perkiomen Junction)	PHMC	Undetermined
6633	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible

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Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
6634	Ferrence Barn	PHMC	Unknown
6635	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6636	Mann Barn	PHMC	Unknown
6637	Tettermer Barn	PHMC	Unknown
6638	Solt Greenhouse	PHMC	Ineligible
6639	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6640	Jacob Knetz House	PHMC	Ineligible
6641	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6305	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad	PHMC	Undetermined
7133	Augustus Spaar's Hereford Hotel	BCPC	Unknown

Washington

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5618	Adam Schultz Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5619	Andrew Stauffer Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5620	Bachman's Tavern	PHMC	Undetermined
5622	Barto Bridge	PHMC	Listed
5624	Barto General Store	Meiser	Unknown
5625	Barto Hotel	PHMC	Undetermined
5626	Barto Railroad Station	Meiser	Unknown
5627	Bechtel House	PHMC	Undetermined
5628	Bechtel Oil Mill	PHMC	Undetermined
5629	Benjamin Heydt Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5631	Borneman Mill	PHMC	Listed
5632	Bower-Moyer-Ehst Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5633	C.E. Westervelt Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5634	Charles Henry Home	PHMC	Undetermined
5635	Colebrookdale Hotel / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
5636	Covely Foundry	Meiser	Unknown
5639	Dale Office Mansion	Meiser	Unknown
5640	Dotterer Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5641	Eshbach House	PHMC	Undetermined
5643	Focht's Forge	Meiser	Unknown
5644	Frederick Brandt Property, Christian Bear Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5645	General Store / Post Office	Meiser	Unknown
5646	Gilbert Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5647	Heydt's School	Meiser	Unknown
5648	John Glaes Pottery Home	Meiser	Unknown
5649	Kermit and Catherine Eshbach Property, Andrew Schultz Farmstead	PHMC	Undetermined
5650	Kuhn Farm	PHMC	Undetermined

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Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5651	Kulp Sawmill	PHMC	Undetermined
5652	Latshaw-Saylor Mill	PHMC	Undetermined
5653	Lloyd Hill Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5654	Michael & Mimi Brooks Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5655	Moatz Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5656	Mt. Pleasant Forge	PHMC	Undetermined
5657	Mt. Pleasant Furnace	PHMC	Undetermined
5658	Philip Christman House	PHMC	Listed
5659	Raymond Nuss Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5660	Reichert Homestead	PHMC	Undetermined
5661	Rita Oteri Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5662	Robert Hoffman Property	PHMC	Undetermined
5663	Schultz Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
5664	Schultz Gristmill	PHMC	Undetermined
5665	Schultz House	PHMC	Undetermined
5667	Schwenkfelder Homestead	PHMC	Undetermined
5668	Stauffer Homestead	PHMC	Undetermined
5669	Thomas Edison Iron Mine	Meiser	Unknown
5670	Treichler House	PHMC	Ineligible
5671	Wagonhurst Log House	PHMC	Undetermined
5672	Washington Hotel	PHMC	Undetermined
5673	Zerr-Stauffer Farm	PHMC	Undetermined
6677	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6678	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6679	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6680	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6681	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6682	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6683	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
6684	Bridge	PHMC	Ineligible
5630	Bethany Church	PHMC	Undetermined
6305	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad	PHMC	Undetermined

Source: Berks County Historic Resources Database

List of Historic Districts
(See numbers on the Historic Resources Maps)

Hereford

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
2175	Village of Herefordville	PHMC	Undetermined
2178	Village of Huff's Church	PHMC	Undetermined
2183	Hunter's Mill District	PHMC	Listed
2191	Village of Perryville, Village Of Harlem	PHMC	Undetermined
2201	Village of Seisholtzville	PHMC	Eligible
2208	Village of Treichlersville	PHMC	Eligible

Washington

Resource ID	Historic Name	Source	National Register Status*
5621	Village of Barto	PHMC	Undetermined
5637	Village of Dale	PHMC	Undetermined
5638	Dale Furnace and Forge Historic District	PHMC	Listed
5642	Village of Eshbach	PHMC	Undetermined
5666	Village of Schultzville	PHMC	Undetermined
6512	Falkners Swamp Rural Historic District	PHMC	Ineligible

Source: Berks County Historic Resources Database

* 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 PA State Historic Preservation office.

Undetermined: 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 is eligible, ineligible or listed.

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, but are still historically significant to Berks County.

State Historic Marker Program

The Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC). It was begun in 1946, overseeing approximately 2,000 markers in the state. The blue and gold signs are placed along highways and city streets dedicating significant historical events and places.

There are three Historical Marker signs in the region. There is one roadside Historical Marker in Hereford Township, highlighting the Hereford Furnace. The marker, located at the junction of SR 29 and SR 100, was dedicated on May 5, 1967. It marks the establishment of an iron manufacturing business by Thomas Maybury in 1745 on the west bank of the Perkiomen Creek. Maybury



is credited with producing the first cast-iron cooking-stove in North America here in 1767.

The other two Historical Markers are located within Washington Township. One is located near the intersection of Forgedale Road and SR 100 and identifies the site of the Forgedale Iron Works. Another sign identifies the Dale Furnace and Forge Historic District also known as the Dale Iron Works and Mt. Chalfont Furnace.

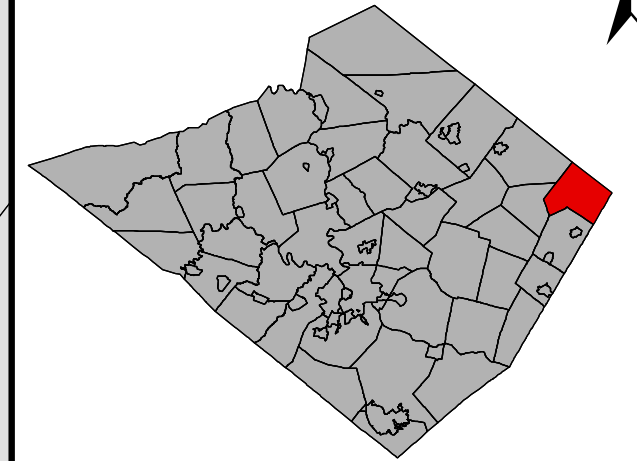
Key Trends and Issues

- **The historic value of several properties and villages within the planning area has been documented.** The planning area contains properties already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are four properties currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and three that are eligible. There are twelve Historic Districts in the planning area; these areas are protected under authority of the home municipality. Additional resources of state and county significance have been identified. There are a total of 157 identified historic resources in the planning area.
- **Conservation organizations are working to protect cultural resources of the region.** The Schuylkill River Greenway Association and Berks Nature are aware of resources in the planning area.
- **One historical marker commemorates an early business of national significance.** The planning area is home to the first cast-iron cooking-stove made in North America, 1767.



Hereford Hotel

Historic Sites and Districts Hereford Township



Legend

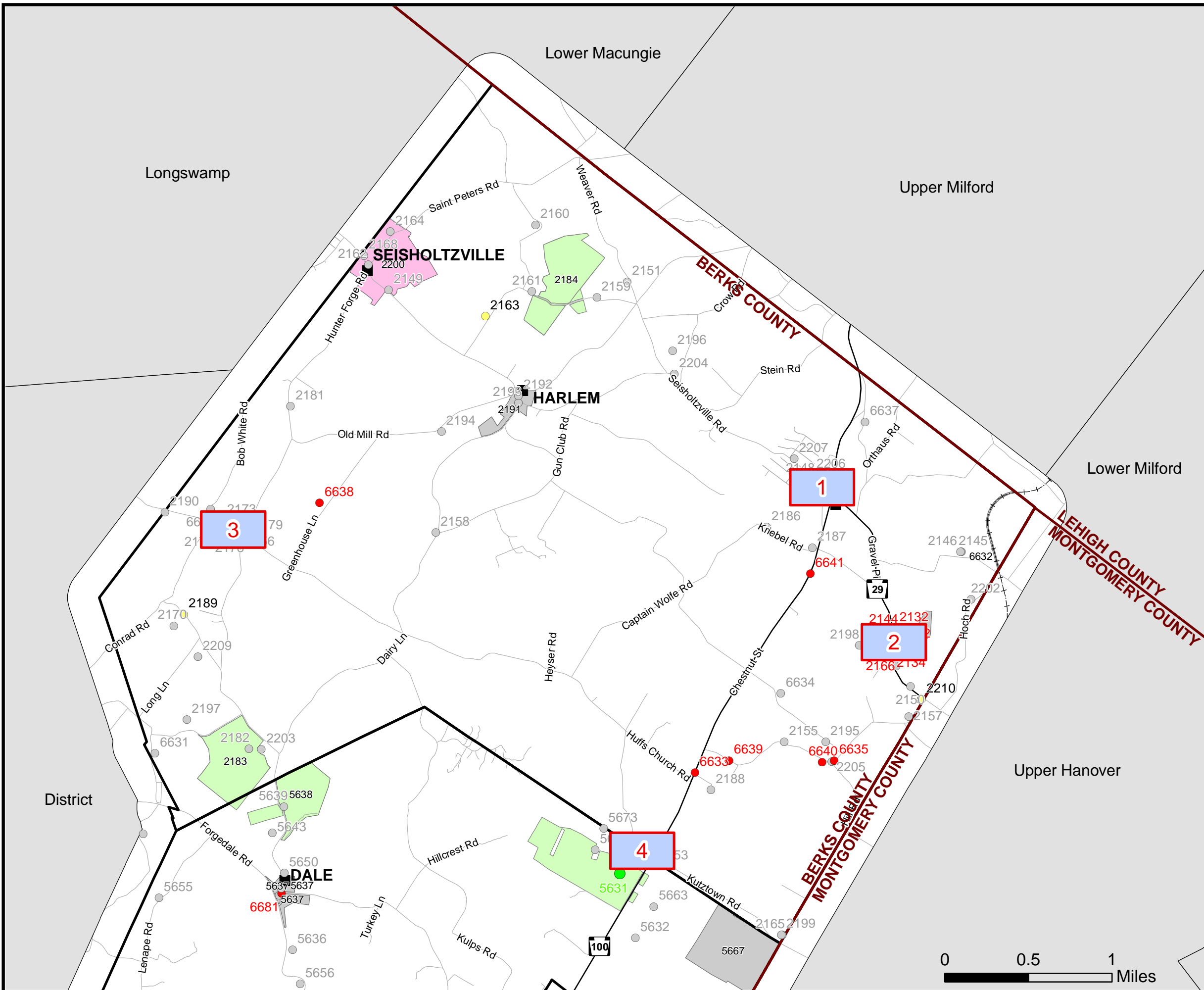
- National Register Listed
- National Register Eligible
- National Register Ineligible
- Other Historic Sites*
- National Register Listed Districts
- National Register Eligible Districts
- National Register Ineligible Districts
- Other Historic Districts*
- Villages
- Roads
- Railroads- Active
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

* Includes sites identified by surveys conducted from one or more of the following groups: Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Berks Nature, George Meiser, BCPC, local historic volunteers and local historical societies.

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

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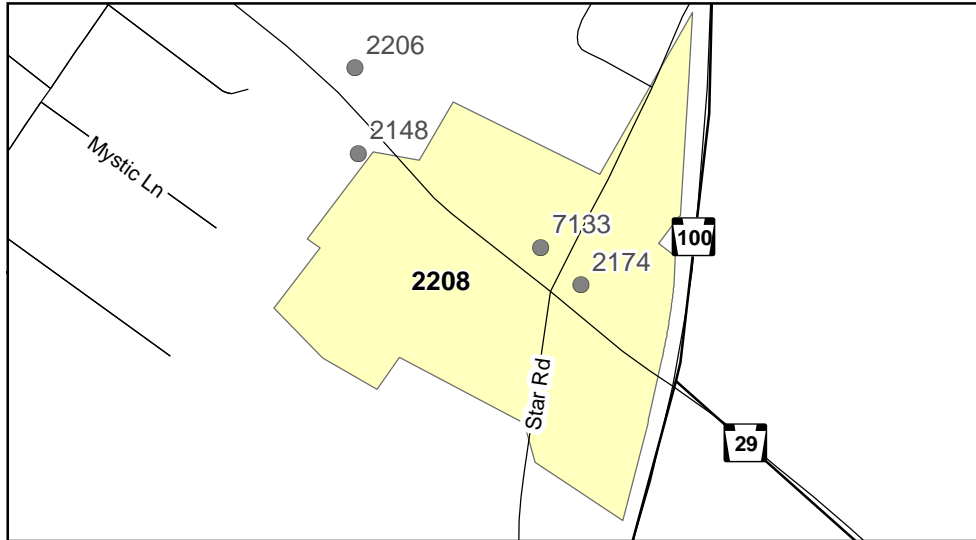


Historic Sites and Districts Hereford Township

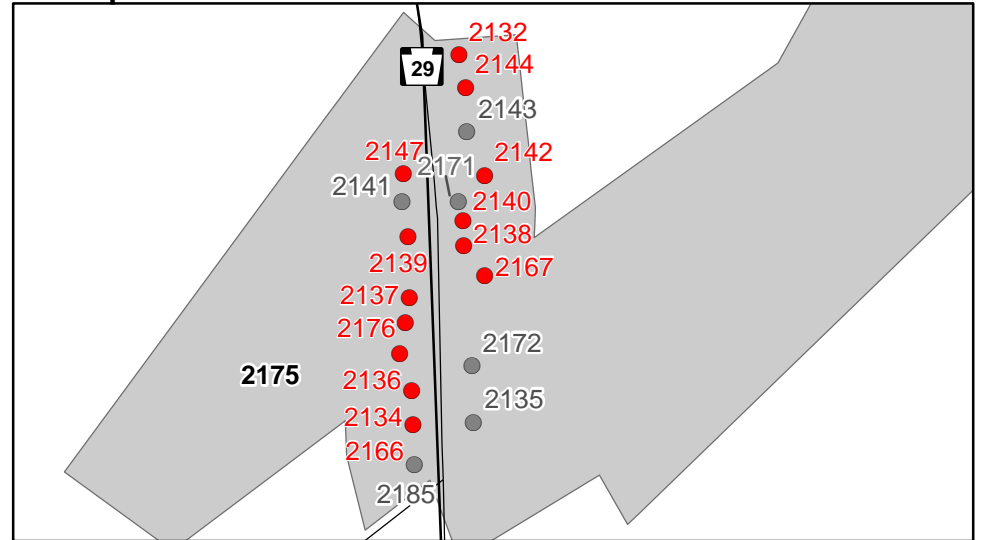
FIGURE 14
Hereford and Washington Joint Comprehensive Plan Update
Adopted: August 2018



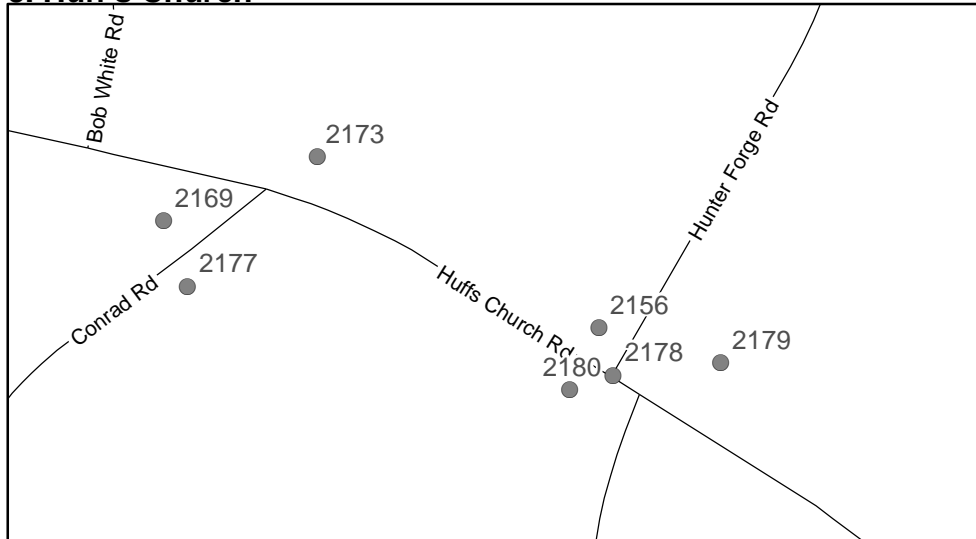
1. Hereford



2. Chapel



3. Huff's Church



4. Clayton



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

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Legend

— State Route

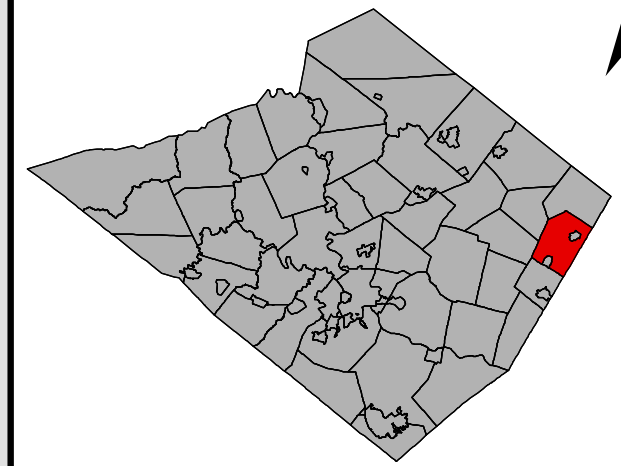
— Roads

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

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



Historic Sites and Districts Washington Township



Legend

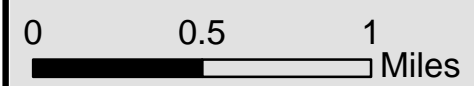
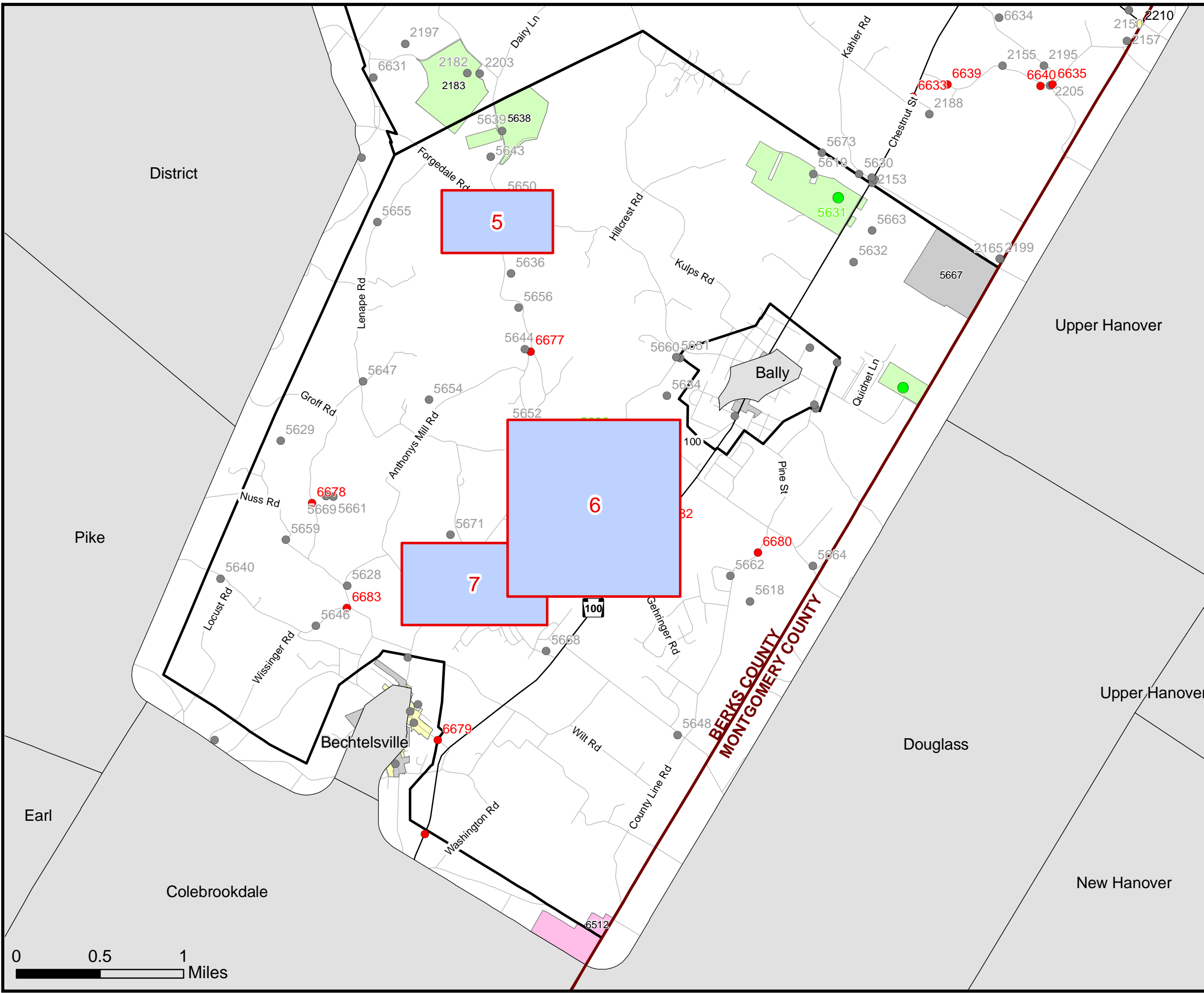
- National Register Listed
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- Other Historic Sites*
- National Register Listed Districts
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- National Register Ineligible Districts
- Other Historic Districts*
- Roads
- Railroads- Active
- Municipal Boundaries
- County

* Includes sites identified by surveys conducted from one or more of the following groups: Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Berks Nature, George Meiser, BCPC, local historic volunteers and local historical societies.

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

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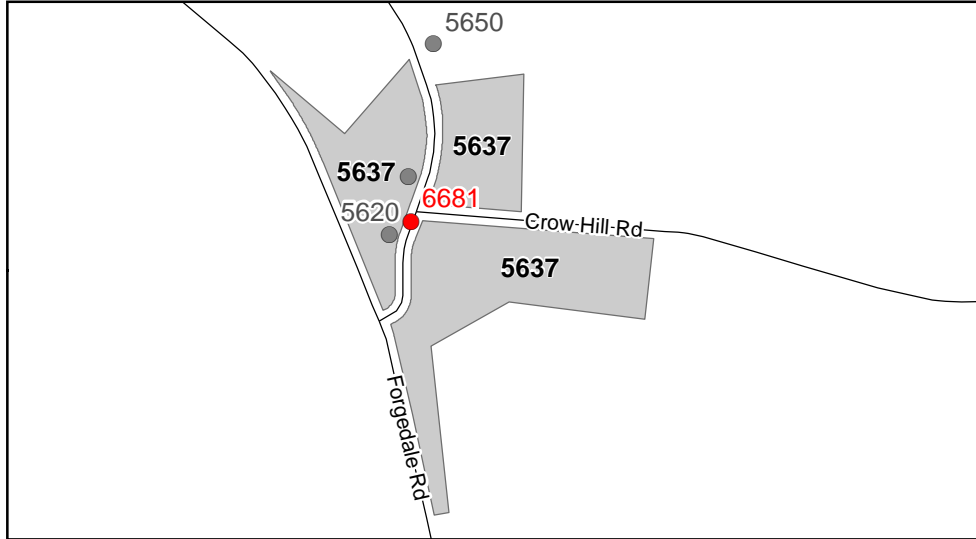
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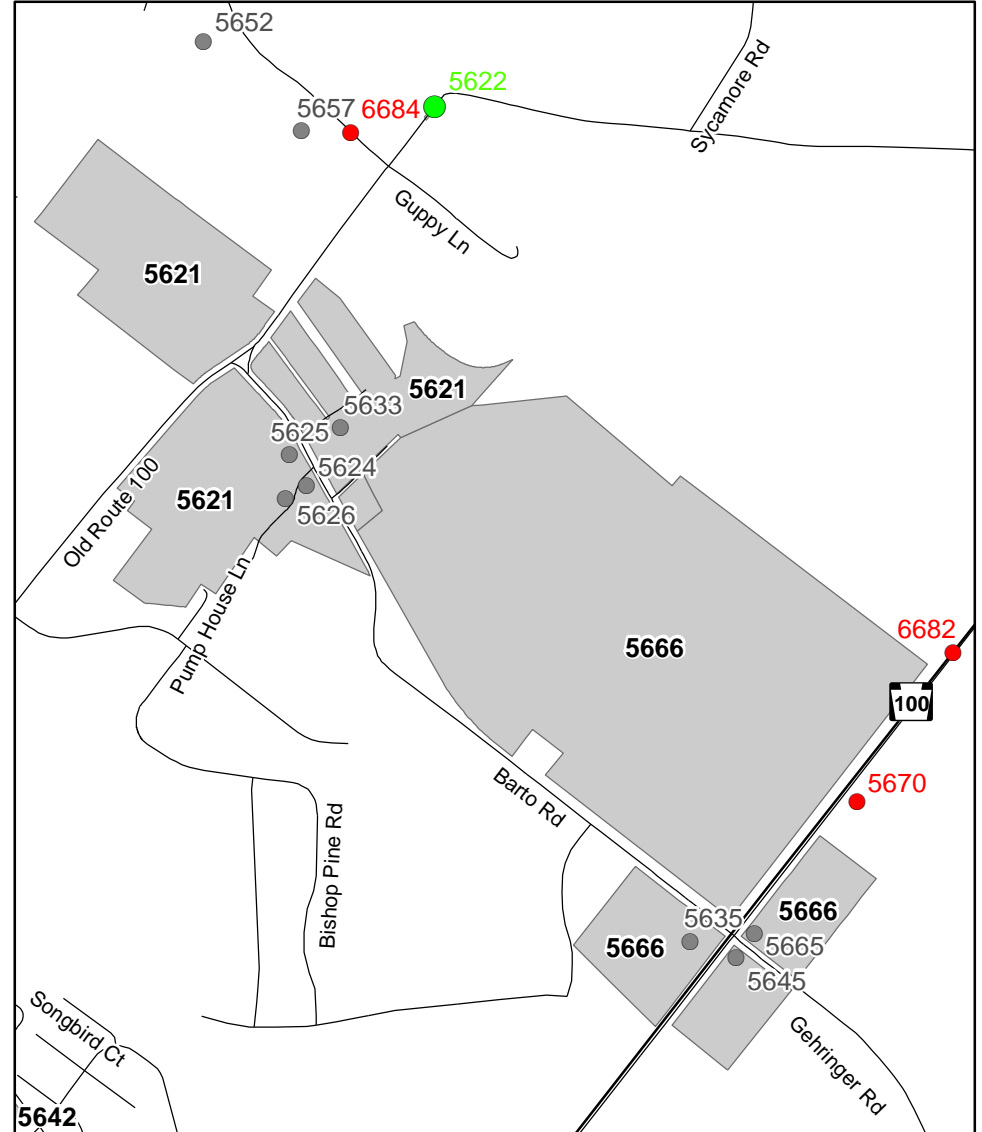
Historic Sites and Districts Washington Township



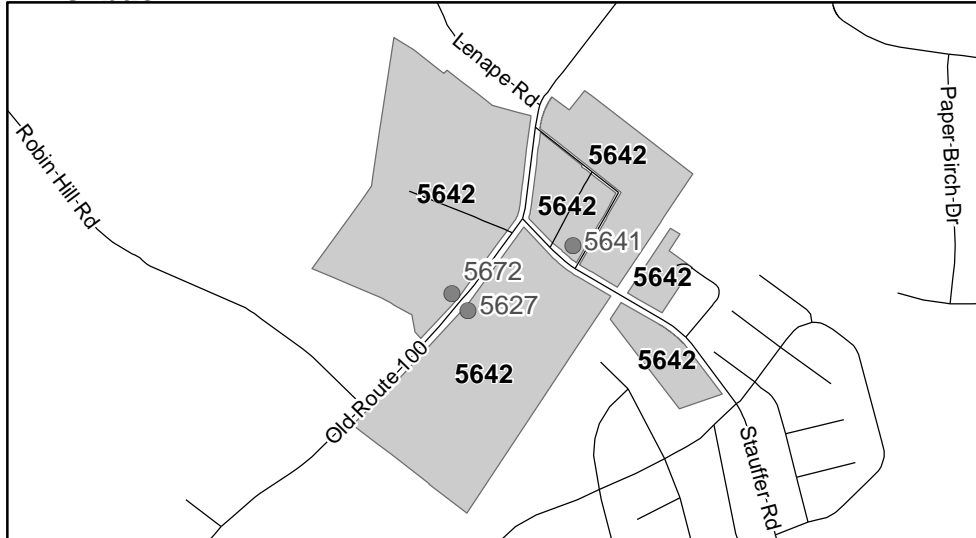
5. Dale



6. Barto and Schultzville



7. Eshbach



* Includes sites identified by surveys conducted from one or more of the following groups: Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Berks Nature, George Meiser, BCPC, local historic volunteers and local historical societies.

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

Published by the Berks County Planning Commission

Legend

- State Route
- Roads

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

