



# CRGIS Tutorial #6: Locating USGS Topographic Maps



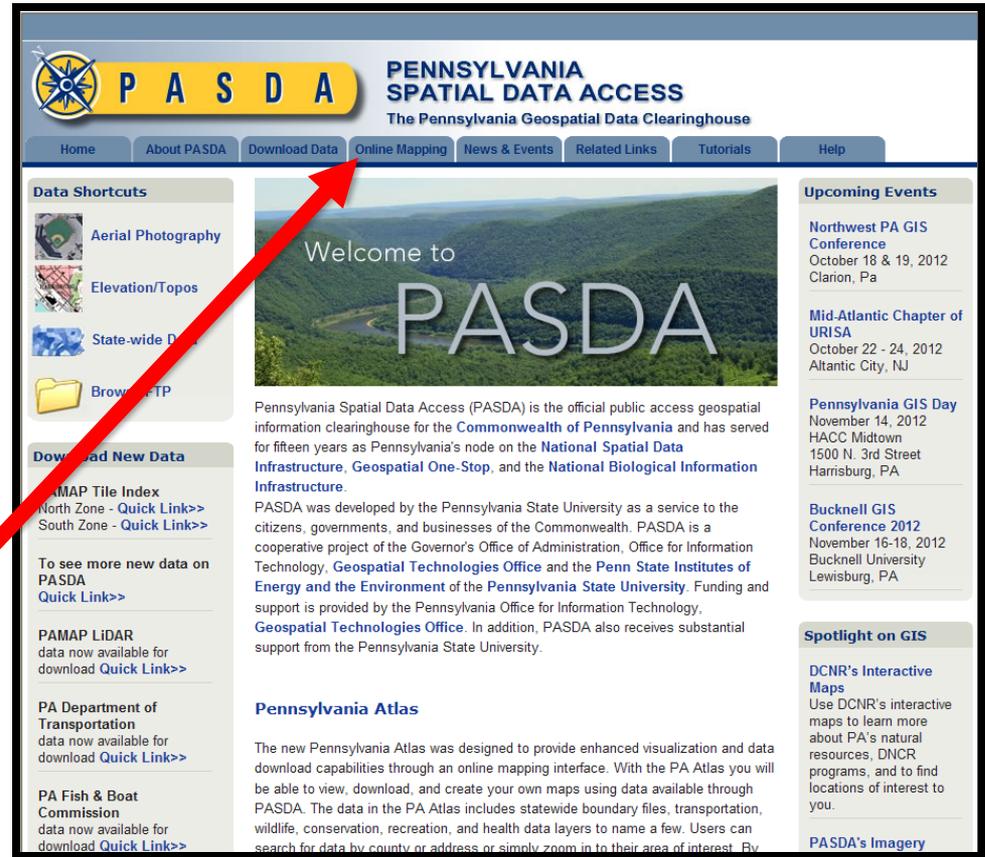
The following tutorial is intended to assist users recording historic or archaeological sites with locating and preparing proper USGS topographic maps for submission to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.

1. Go to the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) website

<http://www.pasda.psu.edu/>

*[You may know of another digital map source. PASDA is simply a suggestion.]*

2. Click "Online Mapping" at the top of the page



The screenshot shows the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Home, About PASDA, Download Data, Online Mapping, News & Events, Related Links, Tutorials, and Help. A red arrow points to the "Online Mapping" tab. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a large banner with the text "Welcome to PASDA" and a scenic landscape image. To the left of the banner is a "Data Shortcuts" section with links for Aerial Photography, Elevation/Topos, State-wide Data, and Browse by ZIP. Below that is a "Download New Data" section with links for PAMAP Tile Index (North and South Zones), To see more new data on PASDA, PAMAP LIDAR, PA Department of Transportation, and PA Fish & Boat Commission. To the right of the banner is a "Pennsylvania Atlas" section with a description of the atlas and its capabilities. Further right is an "Upcoming Events" section listing the Northwest PA GIS Conference, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA, and Pennsylvania GIS Day. At the bottom right, there is a "Spotlight on GIS" section featuring DCNR's Interactive Maps and a link to PASDA's Imagery.



# Locating USGS Topographic Maps

3. Click "Pennsylvania Imagery Navigator"

The screenshot shows the PASDA (Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access) website. The header includes the PASDA logo and the text "PENNSYLVANIA SPATIAL DATA ACCESS" and "The Pennsylvania Geospatial Data Clearinghouse". A navigation bar contains links for Home, About PASDA, Download Data, Online Mapping, News & Events, Related Links, Tutorials, and Help. On the left, a sidebar menu lists "Online Mapping" with sub-links: PA Imagery Navigator, Pennsylvania Atlas, National Weather Service - Map Services, Map Services, Google Earth, and Imagery. The main content area is titled "Online Mapping" and features three sections: "Pennsylvania Imagery Navigator" (with a red arrow pointing to the link), "Pennsylvania Atlas", and "National Weather Service - Map Services". Each section includes a small map thumbnail and a descriptive paragraph.

**Online Mapping**

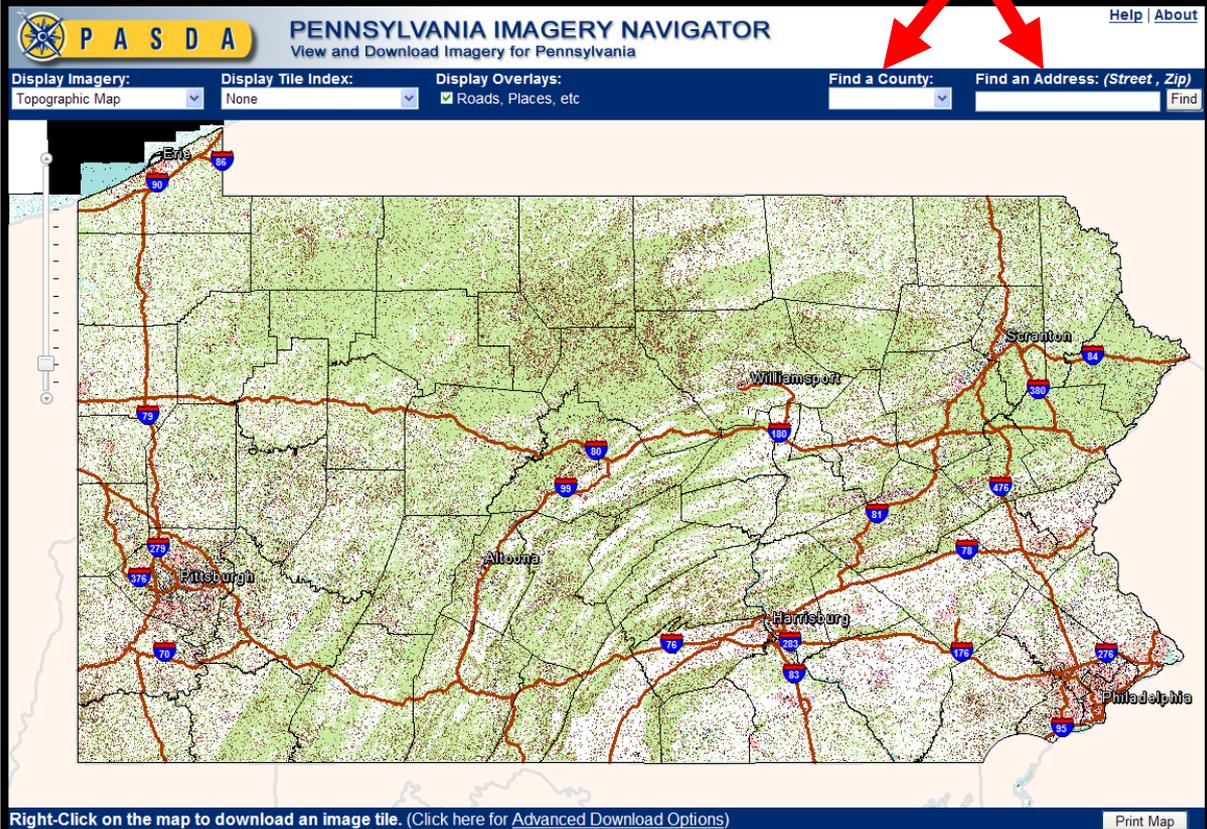
**PA Imagery Navigator** This interactive application serves as the **One Stop Portal** to all imagery and raster data by, for, or about Pennsylvania. Capabilities of the Navigator include viewing data, search and retrieval of data, and creating a list of imagery or raster data to download. Functionality includes navigating the map, zooming automatically to a street address, and downloading the available images in MrSID, JPEG 2000, or TIFF formats. Dynamic links are included for images that are available from multiple time periods, data providers, and formats.

**Pennsylvania Atlas** The new Pennsylvania Atlas was designed to provide enhanced visualization and data download capabilities through an online mapping interface. With the PA Atlas you will be able to view, download, and create your own maps using data available through PASDA. The data in the PA Atlas includes statewide boundary files, transportation, wildlife, conservation, recreation, and health data layers to name a few. Users can search for data by county or address or simply zoom in to their area of interest. By using our identify function, users can see data attributes such as road names, traffic counts, state park names and link directly to websites related to data for more information. If you would like to create your own map, simply select your data layers and use our map making function to create a PDF, JPG or PNG file to download. Please feel free to provide comments, suggestions and ideas about our new Pennsylvania Atlas.

**National Weather Service - Map Services** The National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) contains a seamless mosaic of digital forecasts from NWS field offices working in collaboration with the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). The database is made available to all customers and partners from the public, private and academic sectors. Those customers and partners

## 4. Find your topographic quadrant map by mapping the location of your resource

- A - Select "Topographic Map" from Display Imagery dropdown box
- B - next, select either a County to map, or map an address



**A** →

**B** ↙ ↘

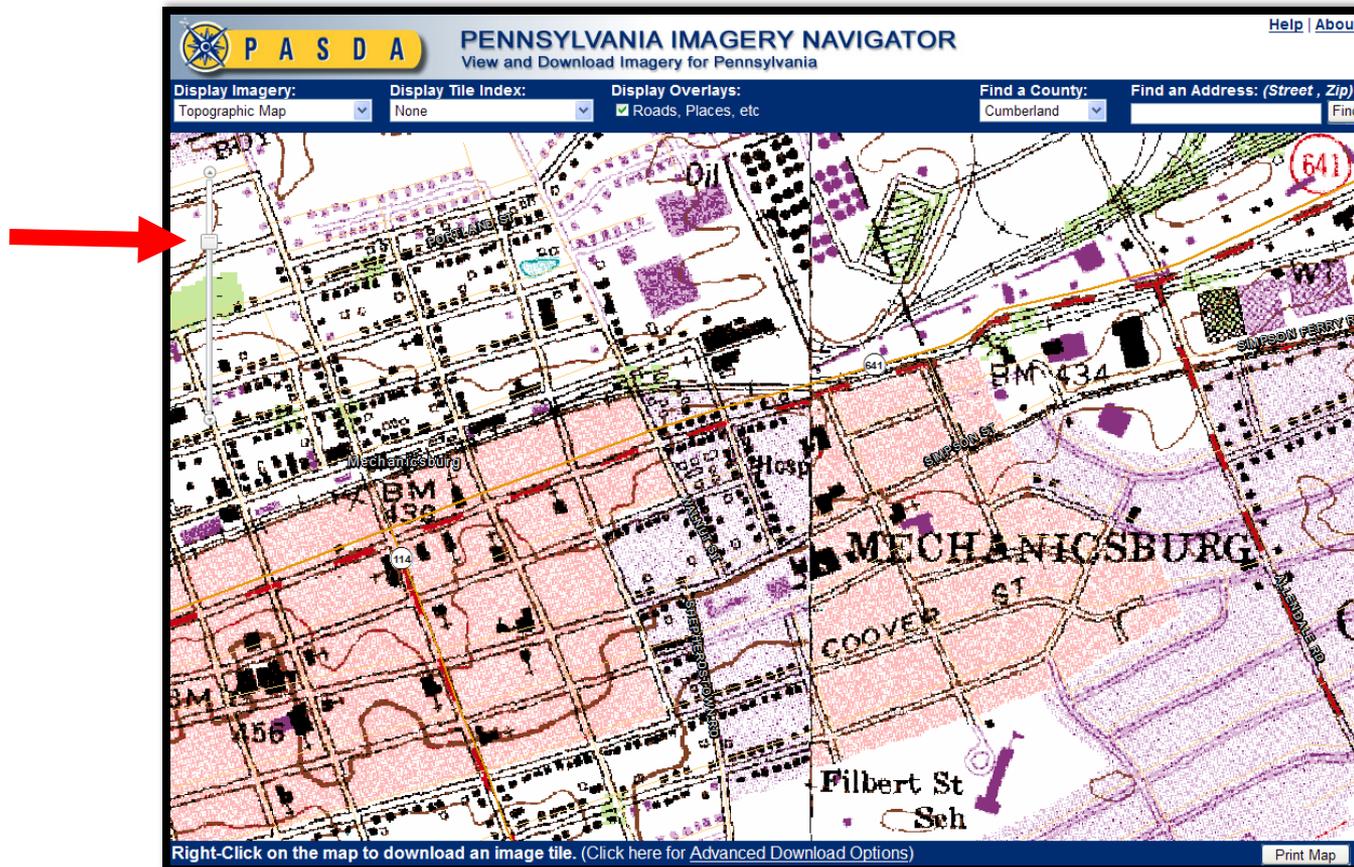
**PASDA** PENNSYLVANIA IMAGERY NAVIGATOR  
View and Download Imagery for Pennsylvania

Display Imagery: Topographic Map | Display Tile Index: None | Display Overlays:  Roads, Places, etc

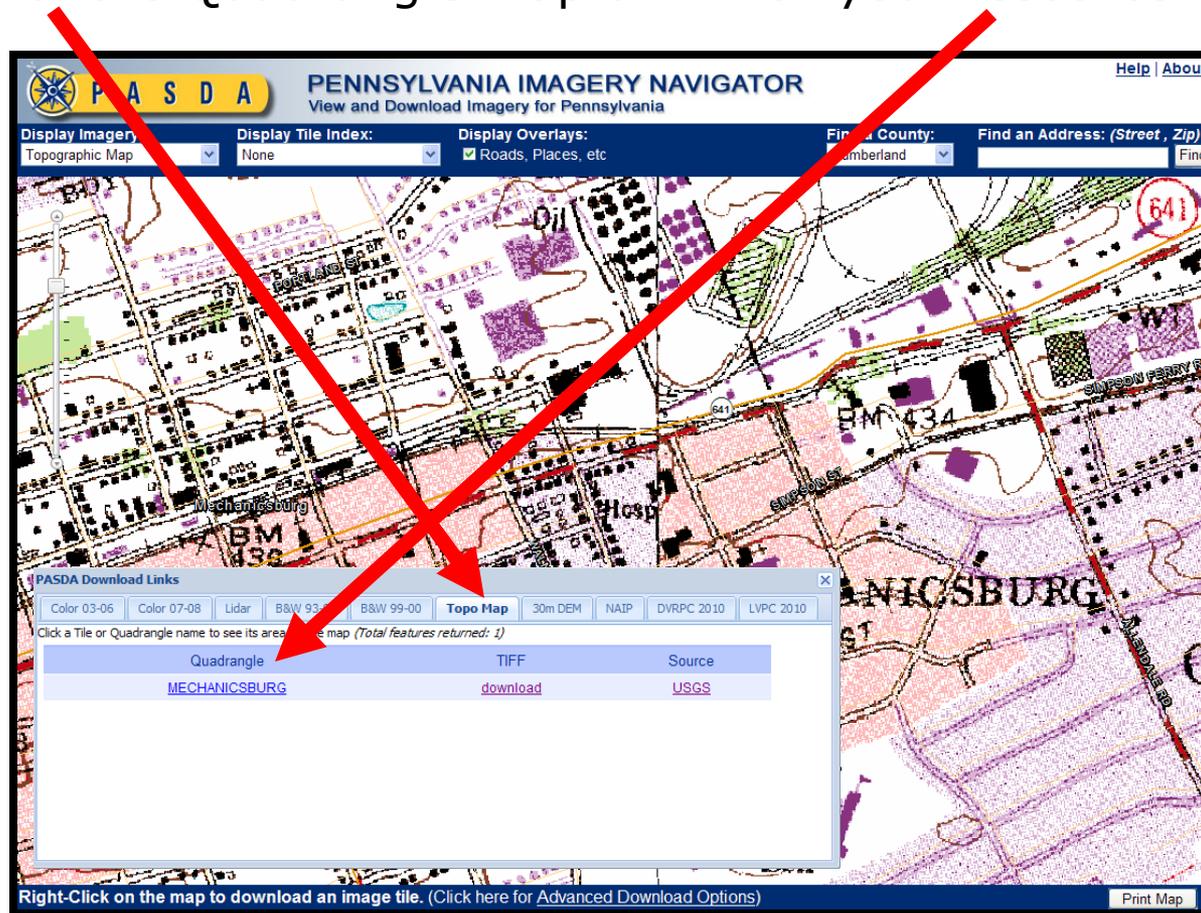
Find a County: | Find an Address: (Street, Zip) | Find

Right-Click on the map to download an image tile. (Click here for [Advanced Download Options](#)) | Print Map

- Zoom in further on the area where your resource is located by using the zoom bar on the left side of the screen, or by using the toggle wheel on your computer's mouse.



- With your mouse, right-click on the map in the area where your resource is located. A "PASDA Download Links" box will appear. Make sure you select the "Topo Map" tab. You will then see the name of the Quadrangle map on which your resource is located.





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## 7. Click on the "download" link

**PASDA PENNSYLVANIA IMAGERY NAVIGATOR**  
View and Download Imagery for Pennsylvania

Display Imagery: Topographic Map | Display Tile Index: None | Display Overlays:  Roads, Places, etc | Find a County: Cumberland | Find an Address: (Street, Zip) Find

**PASDA Download Links**

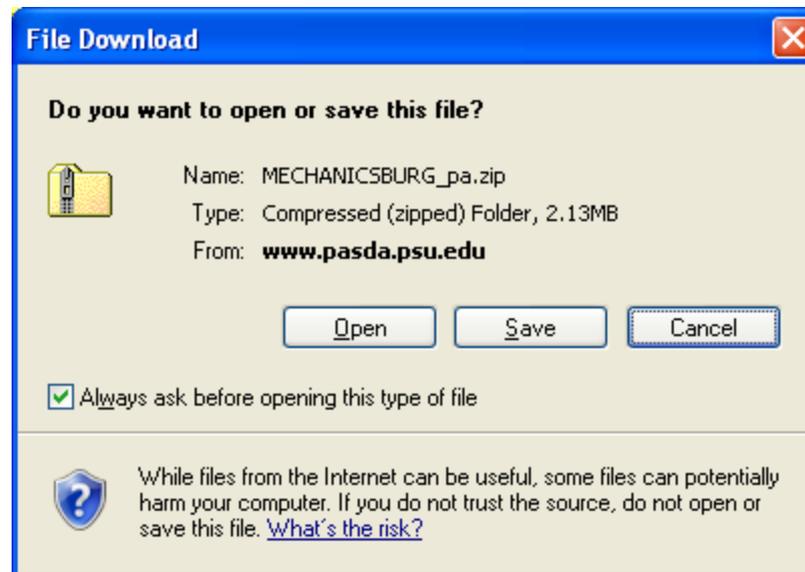
Color 03-06 | Color 07-08 | Lidar | B&W 93-95 | B&W 99-00 | **Topo Map** | 30m DEM | NAIP | DVRPC 2010 | LVPC 2010

Click a Tile or Quadrangle name to see its area on the map (Total features returned: 1)

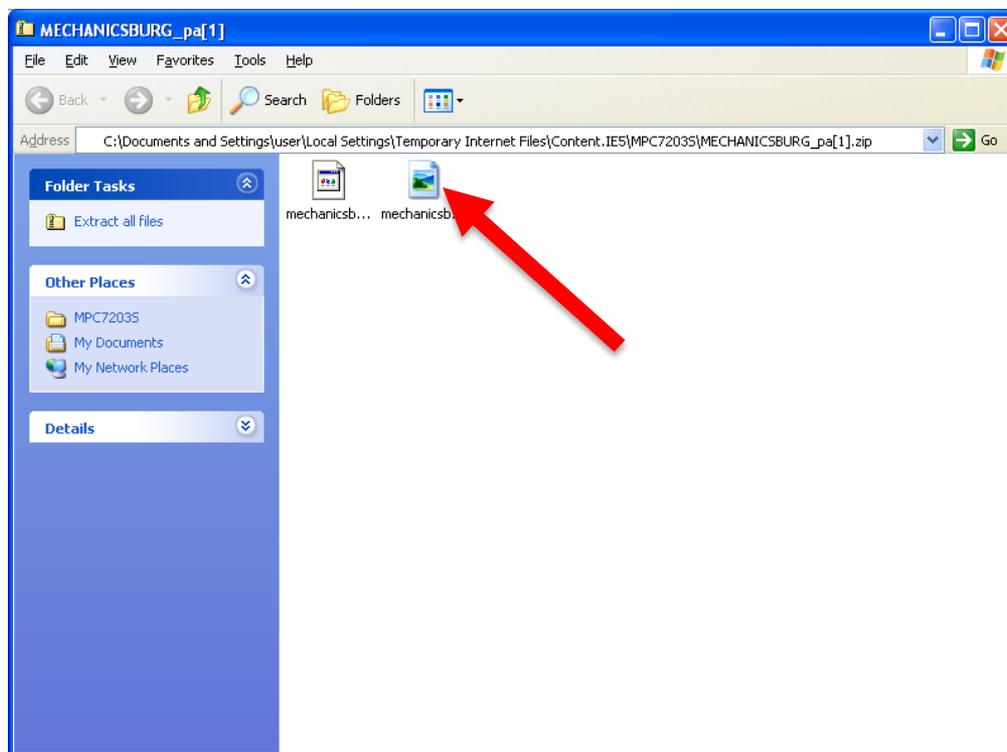
| Quadrangle                    | TIFF                     | Source |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| <a href="#">MECHANICSBURG</a> | <a href="#">download</a> | USGS   |

Right-Click on the map to download an image tile. (Click here for Advanced Download Options) | Print Map

8. "Open" or "Save" the .zip file on your computer.



9. Once in the .zip file folder, open the .tif image file of the selected Quadrangle map. Since the Quadrangle map is an image file, it can be opened, resized, cropped, marked, etc. in almost any editing program, such as PowerPoint, Photo Shop, Paint, etc. To decrease file size, and when submitting your map digitally, you *must* save your map as a .jpg file.





Now you're ready to clearly mark your historic or archaeological resource location, and create your map!

...but before starting, check out a few examples of maps that are both USEFUL and NOT USEFUL in helping the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office record and evaluate resources.

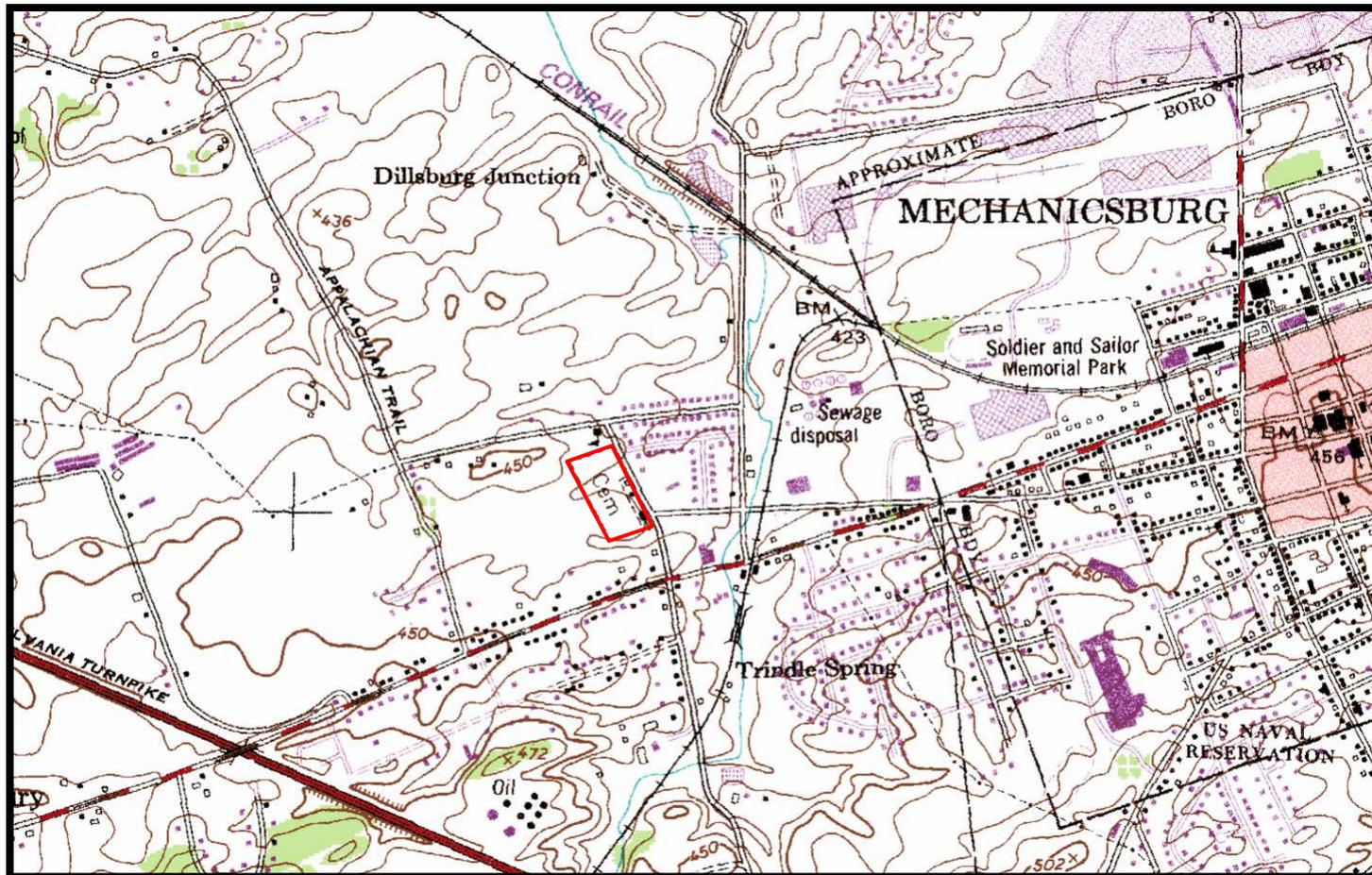
## Map Example: NOT USEFUL

Resource is marked, but boundary is not clear, and nearby location names for reference are NOT visible.



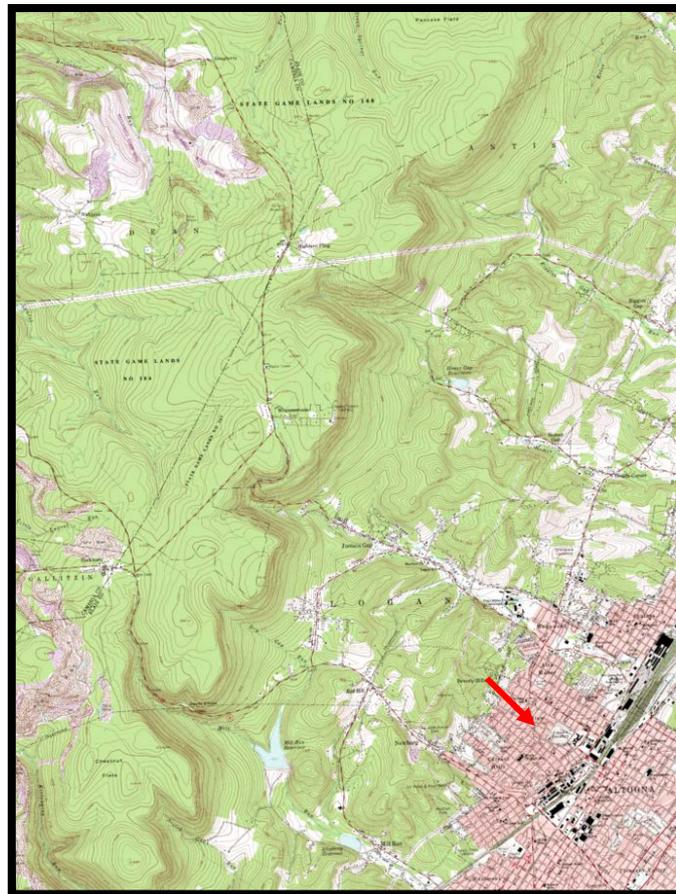
## Map Example: USEFUL!

Resource is clearly marked, and nearby location names are included for reference.



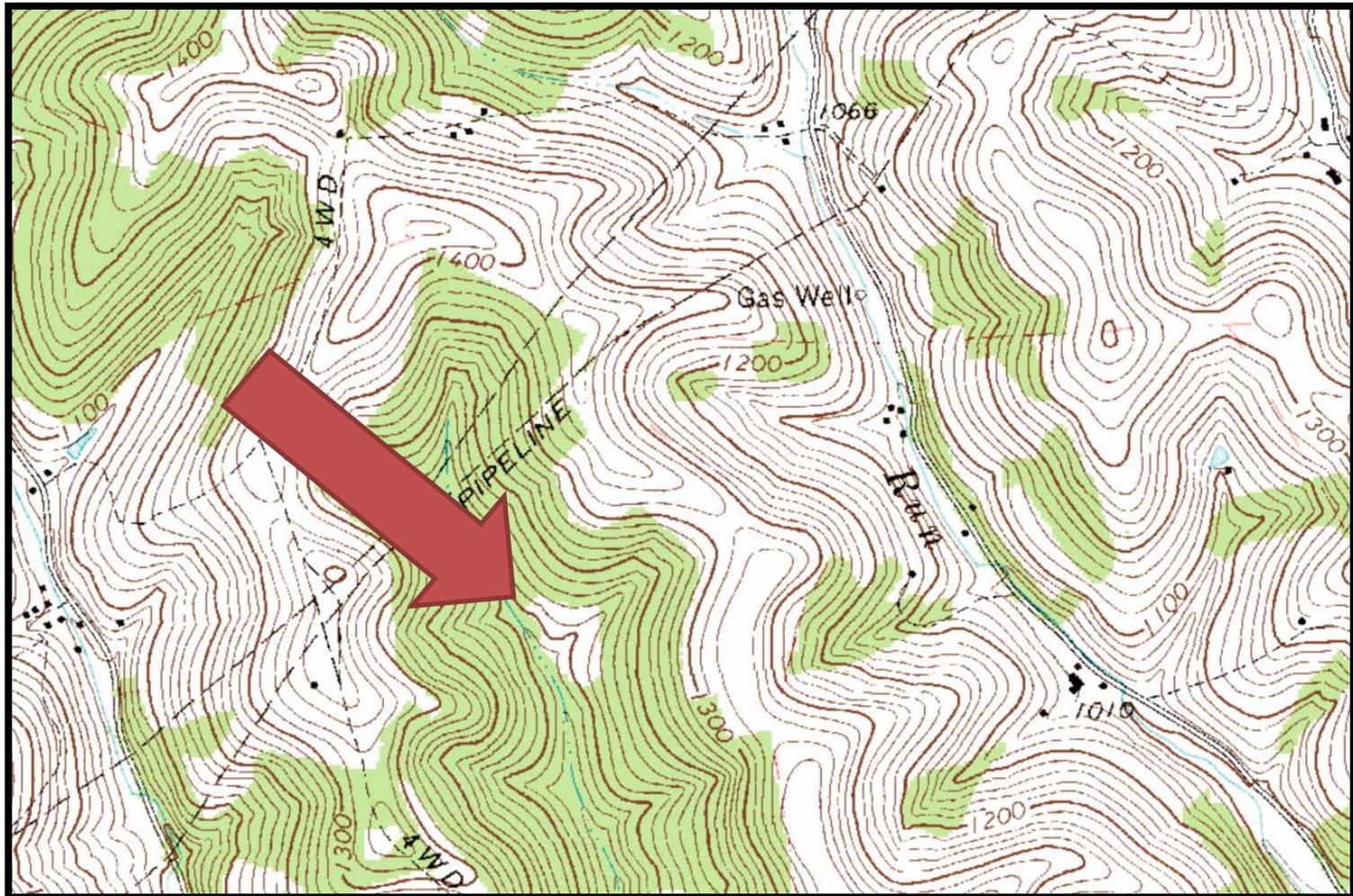
## Map Example: NOT USEFUL

Entire quad map is used for an individual resource, making it difficult to see exact location, or boundary lines.



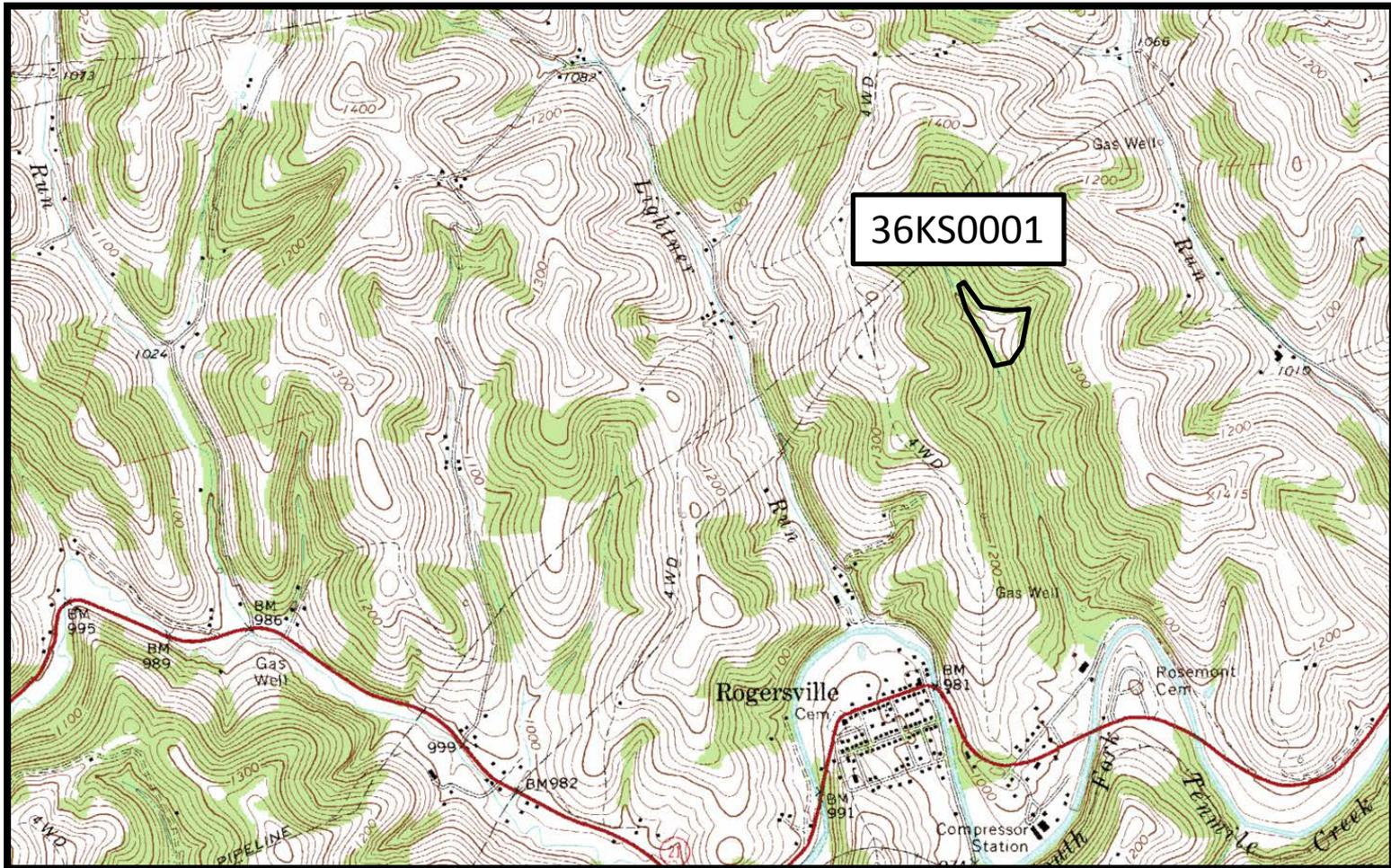
## Map Example: NOT USEFUL

Resource is vaguely marked, boundary is not clear and helpful, and nearby location names for reference are NOT visible.



## Map Example: USEFUL!

Resource is clearly marked and labeled, and nearby location names are included for reference.





## National Register of Historic Places nomination map submissions

### Please Note!

When creating maps for National Register nominations, the National Park Service (NPS) has very specific requirements for acceptable maps.

The NPS requires\*:

- WGS/NAD datum labeled on map
- A map that very clearly labels the property being nominated. The point or district should be distinguishable from the rest of the map.
- A scale
- An arrow pointing north
- Needs to be readable when reproduced in black and white.
- Decimal degrees for each point(s)
- A large scale map
- A small scale map

\*for additional guidance, consult the National Park Service's map policy factsheet,

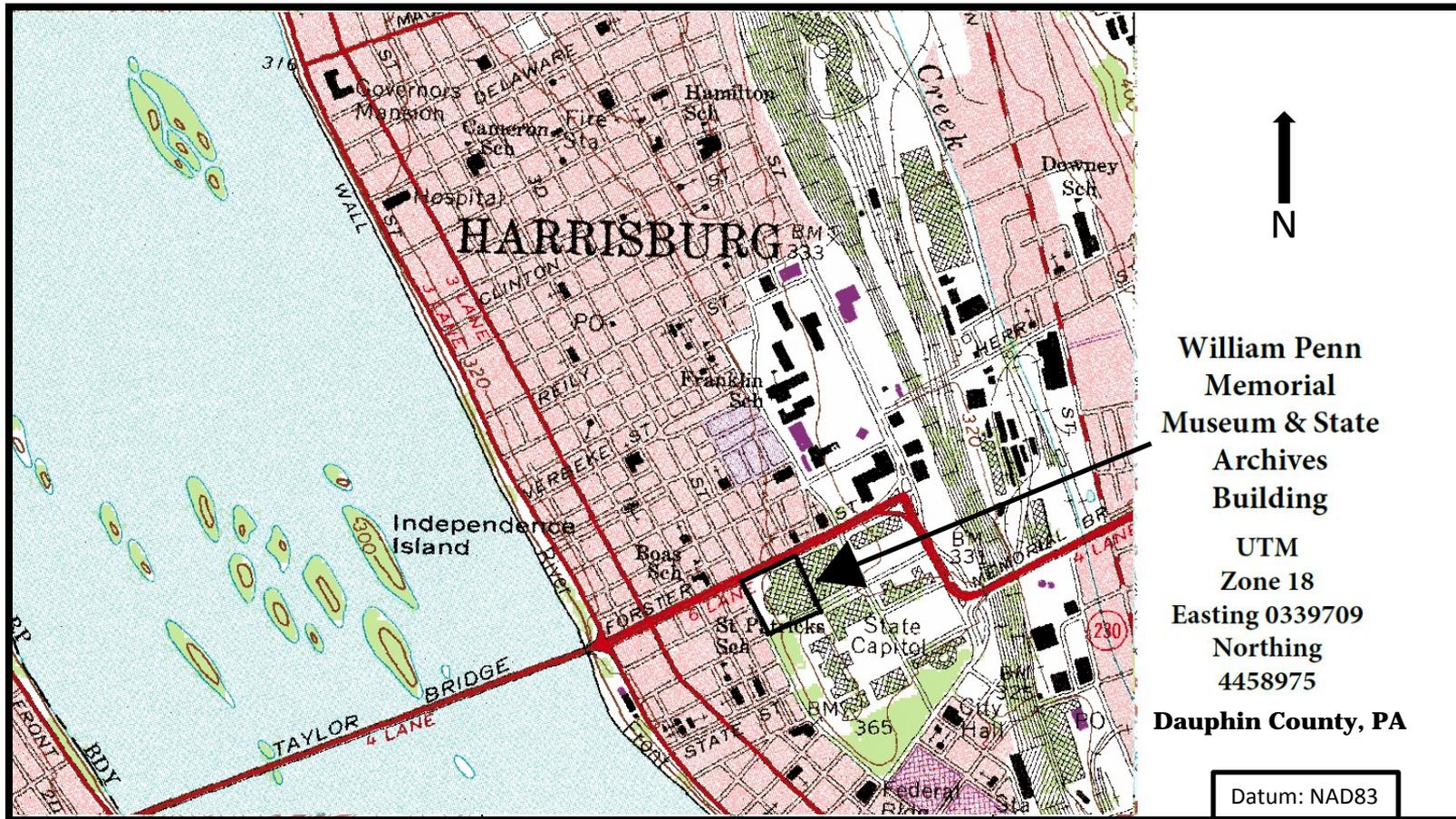
[http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/GIS\\_maps/GIS\\_Guidance\\_2013\\_05\\_15.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/GIS_maps/GIS_Guidance_2013_05_15.pdf),

and/or contact your regional PA SHPO National Register review staff member



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National Register Nomination Map Example:  
Resource is clearly marked, and NPS map requirements are included.





**THE END**

