



**A Researcher's Guide to
National Register
Documentation for Historic
Agricultural Resources of
Pennsylvania**

Lycoming County Agricultural
Extension Archive photo

This document was created in November 2012
by Sally McMurry, Penn State University

The Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project

- This is Pennsylvania's initiative to create a comprehensive statewide National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF, aka "context") for Criterion A* for Agriculture. The official title for the context is "Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, 1700-1960." *Criterion A: "Property is Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."
- The Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website furnishes the context itself and guides for using it. To access it, use any Web browser and enter the term "Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project."



**HYADSF identifies three Property Types: farmstead, farm, and historic
Agricultural district. This guide offers step-by-step guidance on
Assembling Documentation.**

Documentation for Farmsteads and Farms: Slides 4-41

Documentation for Historic Agricultural Districts: Slides 42-74

Part I: Documenting **Farmsteads** **and Farms** in Pennsylvania



Somerset County farm

Property Types

- Farmstead: the farm dwelling[s]; barn; outbuildings; and the immediately surrounding land on which these buildings are situated. It normally excludes cropland, meadow, pasture, orchard, and woodland, but would include such landscape features as yards, windbreaks, ponds, gardens, ornamental trees, decorative fences, driveways, etc.
- Farm: the farmstead plus crop fields, meadows, pastures, orchards, woodlots, etc., including landscape features such as fences, tree lines, contour strips, streams, etc. and circulation networks.

Four key steps to assembling National Register documentation for a farmstead or farm

- 1) Research the property
- 2) Evaluate integrity
- 3) Develop a Narrative Description (section 7 of the National Register form)
- 4) Develop a Statement of Significance (section 8 of the National Register form)

Research the Property

Step 1: Physical inspection. Explained in this guide.

Step 2: Documentary research. The current minimum expected by the Bureau for Historic Preservation includes the following: 1) Using manuscript agricultural census data, compare the historic farm production patterns to township averages. 2) Using historic aerial photographs, analyze farm landscape patterns.

In order to complete these requirements, FIRST the researcher must conduct a deed trace, because only with a chain of title is it possible to know who owned the property at the time a census entry or aerial photograph was created. It is also advisable to gather any information that the current owner may possess. These steps are explained in this guide.

Step 1: Physical Inspection: describe all buildings and landscapes associated with the property.



To help structure your field documentation, you may find it helpful to use the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project Survey Form, available on the Project website. It is accessible from the main page for the “Agricultural Field Guide.” A sample portion appears at right.

Barn Type:

- _____ Pennsylvania Barn
- _____ Basement Barn
- _____ Three-Gable Barn
- _____ English Barn
- _____ Free Stall Barn
- _____ Stable Barn
 - ___Single Level Access
 - ___Multi Level Access
- _____ Round or Polygonal Barn
- _____ Ground Barn
(*grundscheier*)
- _____ Gable-Front (New England) Barn

Physical Inspection: Buildings

Describe each existing building, including information on size, type, style, materials, dates (where possible), location, and layout. Help in identifying farm building types is available in the Field Guide, via the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.



Farm along PA Route 36, Jefferson County

Physical Inspection: Landscapes

Describe the existing landscape of the farm, including field patterns, topography, lanes, fences, tree rows, waterways and ponds, orchards, and ornamental vegetation. Further help on identifying features is available through the Field Guide in the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.



Oley Valley, Berks County. This view shows a hay field, crop field, shade tree, woven-wire fence, and woodlot.

Physical Inspection: Alterations

Make sure to describe and date all alterations, additions, and removals affecting buildings or landscapes. This will permit an assessment of how the property reflects its historic appearance. The Field Guide on the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website gives examples of common alterations. Alterations don't necessarily impair integrity; they may chronicle important changes in agricultural practice.



Northumberland County barn with ell addition and alterations for poultry housing.

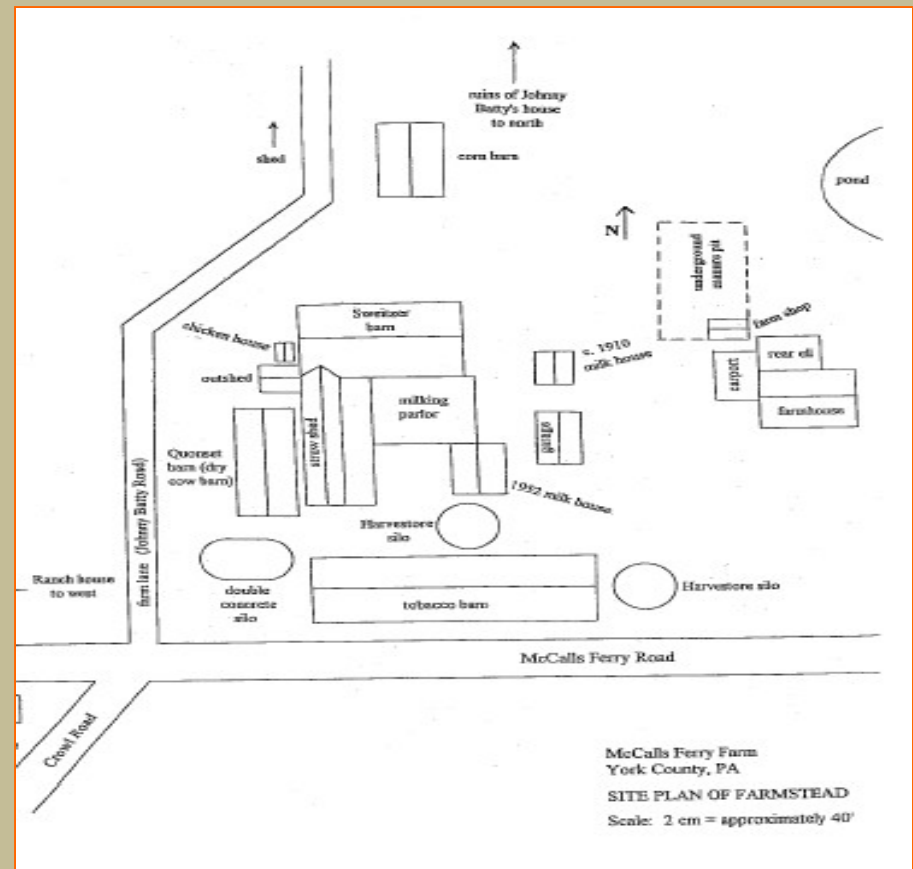
Physical Inspection: Photography



Photograph the buildings and landscape, showing details and relationships among buildings.

Physical Inspection: Site Plan

Prepare a sketch plan that shows the locations of buildings and landscape features. Make sure to key the plan to the photographs. Your site plan need not be a professional rendering.



up our time-craze, sowed corn &c.

Tuesday 23rd Worked at the Lime Stack
and plowed Corn-stubble. Weather warm
and fair, Was at Meyers in the eve.

Wednesday 24th Sowed Oats to day - set
the Lime Stack on fire. Old Mr.
Graham fetched his son Abe home
from the Army, at Harrisburg.

Thursday 25th the eve, Had a
little shower of rain to day about
noon.

Friday 26th Hauled stones and plowed
the eve. Weather clear, cool and windy.

Primary Source Documentation for Farmsteads and Farms

The following discussion of research in primary sources is intended as a guide to producing high-quality documentation. The Bureau for Historic Preservation expects a minimal level of documentation for all submissions, but the richer the supporting material, the greater the likelihood that a submission will not be returned with queries. Minimum documentation is explained at length, and other potential sources are discussed at the end.

Farm diary, US Military
History Institute,
Carlisle, PA

Talk with Current Owners or Occupants



Who did what work on the farm?

What crops were grown and what livestock raised?

Where were farm products marketed?

Was the farm tenanted?

Did hired workers live on the farm? How were they housed?

What changes took place over time?

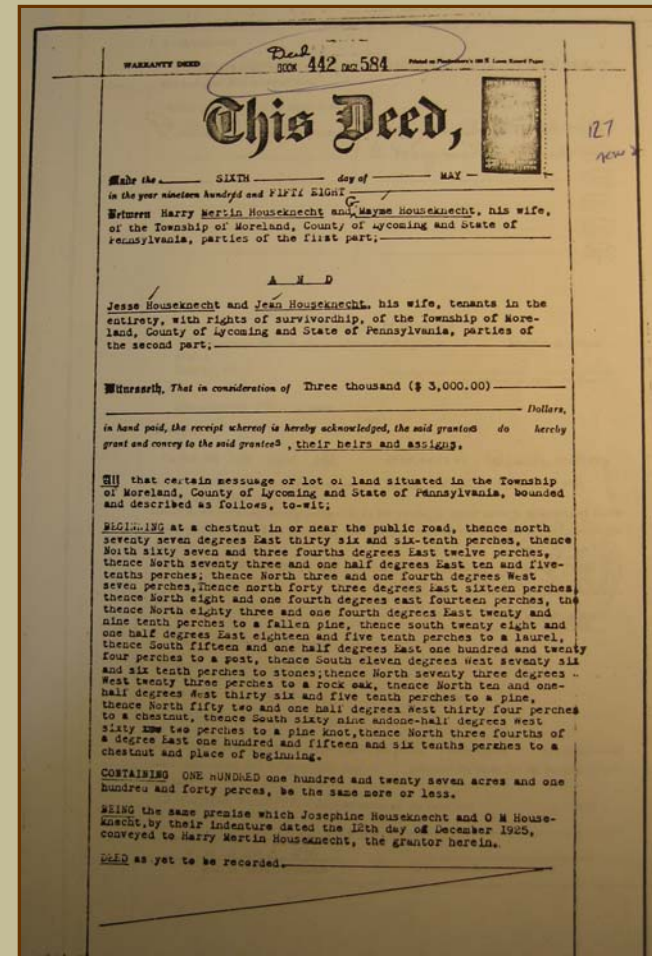
Did anybody hold a job off the farm?

What changes were made to buildings or landscape features, such as additions, new buildings, removal of old buildings, moving buildings, making contour strips, adding or removing fences, clearing woodlots, etc.?

Are there family stories or even old photos and documents that can be shared?

Create a deed trace (chain of title)

A deed trace is the essential first step in researching a property's history. It establishes a chain of title which then enables the researcher to locate other information. Deeds usually are kept by county tax assessment offices.



Sample Deed Trace Summary. This chart records essentials of each property transaction and shows who owned the property and for what years.

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Centre County Deed Book and Page Number
May 26, 2000	Calvin E. and Constance L. Shawley	Mary Posie	Book 236, page 75
August 28, 1948	Edward C. Riley	Calvin E. Shawley	Book 201, page 293
October 12, 1932	Emma M. Riley (wife)	Edward C. Riley (husband)	Book 146, page 307
February 15, 1899	Thomas F. Riley	Emma M. Riley	Book 78, p. 274
February 18, 1893	John H. and Mary Myers	Thomas F. Riley	Book 68, p. 307
May 1, 1872	Mary A and John M Buck	John H. Myers	Book H2, p 537
November 26, 1866	George Sheneberger and Rebecca his wife	John M Buck	Book A3, page 123
September 2, 1851	Sheriff Sale	George Sheneberger and Rebecca his wife	Sheriff Sale, Bellefonte Democrat, August 15, 1851 – property seized from John Friar for debts
July 1, 1848	George Blow	John Friar	Book N2, page 305

Look up previous owners in the agricultural census

- Digitized versions of the 1850 and 1880 Manuscript Federal Census of Agriculture and the 1927 Manuscript State Triennial Census of Agriculture are accessible from the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project Website.
- In the manuscript census, find the county and township where the property is located and look up the property owner at the time of the census for all relevant years.
- Find census compilations for the county where the property is located and compare the individual farm's production patterns to township averages.
- The BHP will normally expect researchers to provide this documentation.

Example

Page No. 4
 Supervisor's Dist: No. 7
 Enumeration Dist: No. 236

NOTE A.—The light dotted perpendicular lines, which separate the columns from each other, and the Enumerator should be careful that the figures are written within the small spaces in the right-hand small spaces.

NOTE B.—Make an affirmative entry by a slanting line (thus /) in one of the three columns 2, 3, and 4, according as the fact is in the case of each farm—in column 2, if the occupier is the owner of the farm; in column 3, if he is the tenant at a fixed money rental; in column 4, if he conducts it for a share of the product.

NOTE C.—Enumerators will observe that there are 100 questions relating to each farm, which are arranged in four successive divisions of each schedule page.

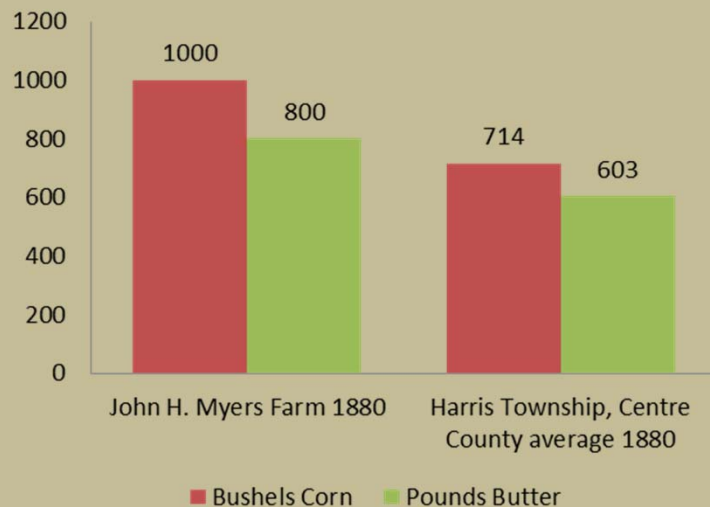
SCHEDULE 2.—Productions of Agriculture in Harris Township in the County of Centre, State of Pennsylvania
 enumerated by me on the 10th 11th 9th days of June, 1880. John Myers Enumerator.

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.	ACRES OF LAND				FARM VALUE			FENCES	LABOR				GRASS LANDS					Horses of all ages on hand June 1, 1880.	Mules and Aves, all ages, on hand June 1, 1880.				
	THE NAME	SECURE		IMPROVED	UNIMPROVED	Of farm, including land, fences, and buildings.	Of farming implements and machinery.		Of Live Stock.	Cost of building and repairing in 1879.	Cost of improvements purchased in 1879.	Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879, including value of board.	Wages hired labor in 1879 upon farm (and dairy) excluding home-work.	ACRES OF 1879		PRODUCTS HARVESTED IN 1879							
		Owner.	Rent for fixed money rental.											Rent for share of products.	Mown.	Not Mown.	HAY.			Clover Seed.	Grass Seed.	No.	No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1	Orrman James	/		1.30	30	1.20		2000.00	800	1300	20	20	50	8	1420	35	20	35				1	
2	Ayres Ida	/		.60	15	.50		2500	150	250	20	10	50	12	265	13	22	8				2	
3	Hitt James A	/		.70	2	3.5		5000	125	400	20	10	40	10	800	16	15	12					3
4	Myers John H	/		1.80	22	1.0		19200	800	1000	25	20	250	52	1952	20	26	40				6	
5	Blackford William	/		1.00	2	3.0		5000	500	900	25	20	50	12	1052	21	7	12					5
6	Kimbert James	/		.65	1	3.0		5700	500	400	50	10	150	53	700	16	10	12					7
7	Hack John	/		.6	1	3.0		900	125	150	10	2	5	1	30	1		3					3
8	Marble Jesse	/		.4				900	125	125	10				550	1	1	3					9
9	Bobn Daniel	/		1.20	2	9.0		1400	900	1300	100	100	200	52	1500	22	15	20	5				11
10	Trouty Geo W	/		.40		.50		2000	150	300		5	10	2	267	8	7	6					5

1880 manuscript agricultural census, Harris Township, Centre County, PA. Partial view. From the deed trace in the sample we know that John H. Myers owned the property in 1880, so we look him up in the manuscript census.

Next, compare the property's historic production to average township levels.

- (partially completed; a full comparison would include all significant crops and products)
- Find the township averages in the tabulated data for each county under "Agricultural Census Information" in the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.



Centre County - 1880 Census Data (10% Sample)

Municipality	Other Cattle	Other Cattle Per Farm	Gallons Milk Sold	Milk Sold Per Farm, in Butter Equivalent	Pounds of Butter Made on Farm	Butter Per Farm (lbs.)
Burnside	22	7	0	0	530	177
Rush	11	6	0	0	450	225
Snow Shoe	11	4	0	0	356	119
Benner	78	7	0	0	4700	392
Boggs	51	4	0	0	1942	162
College	62	6	0	0	2998	300
Ferguson	121	7	0	0	4422	246
Gregg	77	4	0	0	4620	210
Haines	87	8	0	0	3798	345
Halfmoon	53	8	0	0	1895	271
Harris	64	9	0	0	4220	603
Howard	14	2	0	0	1460	162
Luster	49	5	0	0	4750	240

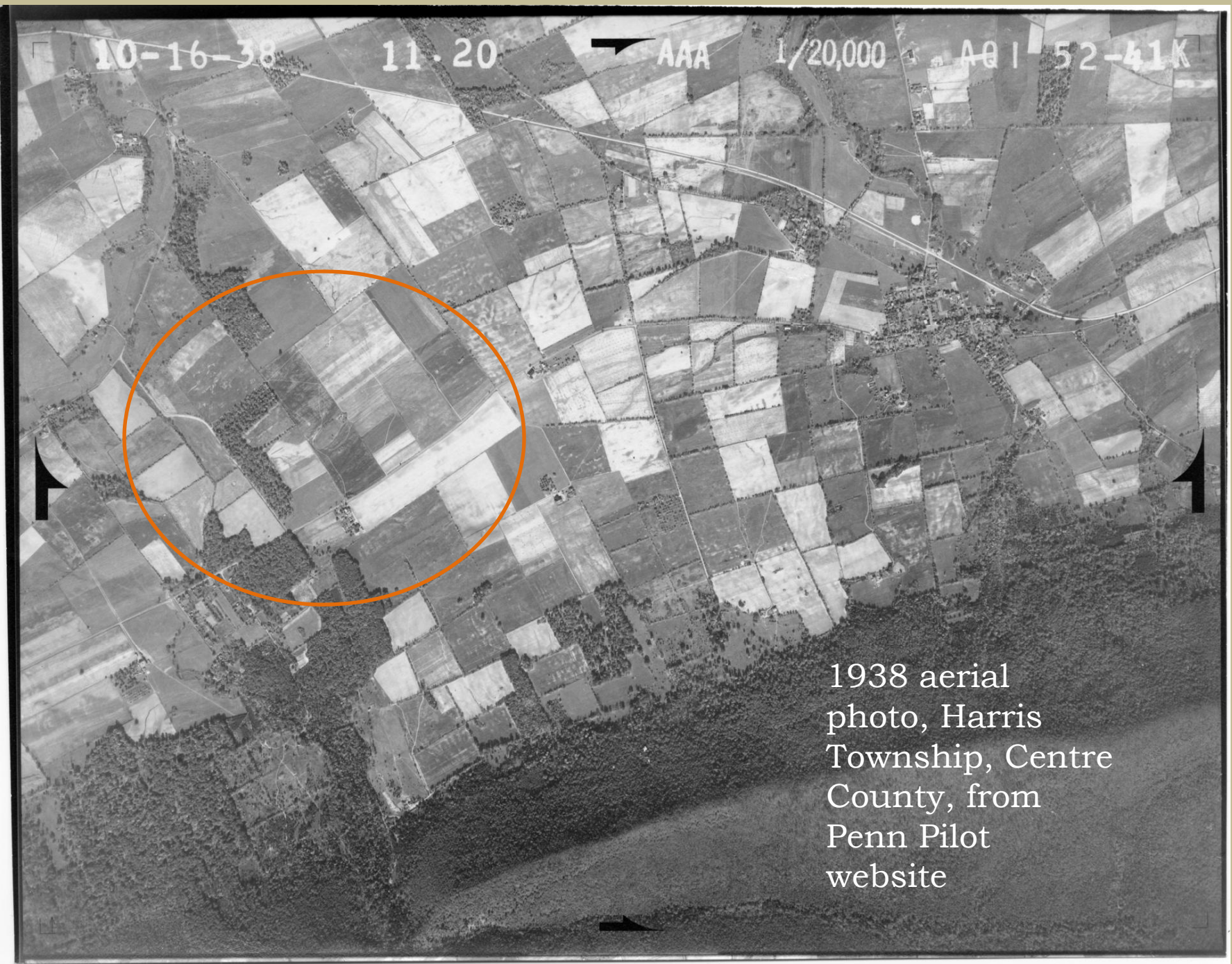
- When comparing historic agricultural census data for submission to the Bureau for Historic Preservation, it is required that you create an easy to read chart comparing your farm's historic agricultural production numbers to township averages for that given agricultural census year.

- DO NOT simply provide a copy of the original agricultural census page.

Analyze Historic Aerial Photographs

(BHP normally expects this as minimal documentation.)

- Use a Web browser to access historic aerial photographs at the Penn Pilot website.
- Enter an address and an era to obtain high quality images.
- Use the aerials to locate the farm boundaries and determine to what extent farm landscape features (cropping patterns, woodlots, treelines, and the like) have persisted, and to date the appearance of important features like ponds.



1938 aerial
photo, Harris
Township, Centre
County, from
Penn Pilot
website



The same location in 1957. Some treelines are intact; some fields have been consolidated; the village has expanded ; some contour strips have appeared; a woodlot is smaller

Assess Integrity

- No nomination can go forward unless a property possesses integrity.
- Usually the best point to assess integrity is after the physical inspection is complete, but before extensive documentary research is undertaken. It may be necessary to learn through documentary sources whether buildings or landscape features have been removed.
- Guidelines for assessing integrity are set out in the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.
- Additional assistance can be obtained from Historic Preservation Bureau staff.

The Narrative Description (NR form Section 7): Introductory summary

- The introductory summary at the very beginning BRIEFLY describes the buildings and gives the total number of resources broken down by whether they are contributing or non-contributing. (For an explanation of contributing and non-contributing, see National Register Bulletin 16.)

Sample Introductory Summary

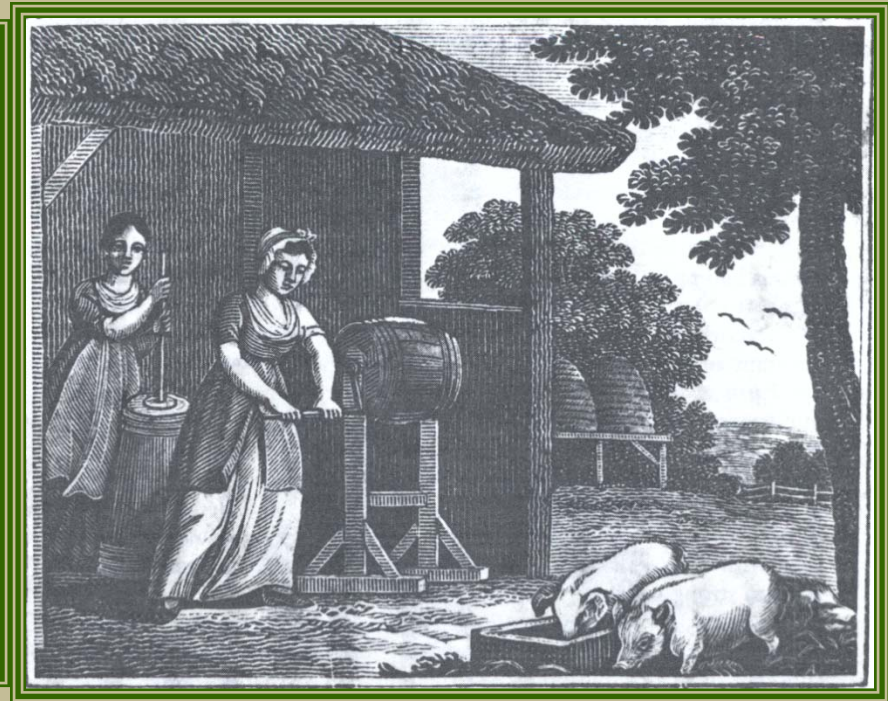
(McClelland-Grimes Farm, Greene County, NR Listed)

- “The McClelland-Grimes Farm consists of approximately 192 acres including woodlots, cropland, pasture land, streams, and farmstead. The site is steeply hilly, with flatter bottomland along the streams. Pasture land predominates overwhelmingly since this is, and historically was, a grazing region. Important historic landscape features include treelines along several of the property lines; pasture lands; grass land; and one contoured crop field. Craynes Run Road and Craigs Run Road follow their historic pathways along the streams of the same names, through the farm lands.”
- “The total resource count includes the following: eight contributing buildings; six noncontributing buildings; two contributing structures; and one noncontributing object.” (Note: Extant historic fields and woodlots may sometimes be counted as contributing sites.)
- “The farmstead buildings number fourteen, of which eight are contributing: an 1873 brick house, c. 1873 brick combination smoke house/ice house, 1883 timber frame barn, c. 1890 wood frame sheep barn, c. 1910 wood frame wash house, early twentieth century wood frame corn crib, c. 1940 wood frame scale shed, and mid twentieth century balloon frame poultry house. The six noncontributing buildings date mostly from the 1990s and early 2000s: a brick garage, and five pole barn style buildings: sheep barn, utility shed, office/processing building, freezer/cold storage building, and manure storage facility. Except for the garage, these are concentrated to the north and apart from the historic buildings. Two contributing structures, a walled spring and poured-concrete cistern, are located just south of the sheep barn. One non-contributing above-ground natural gas outlet remains.”

Narrative Description: Body

- Systematically describe the property's historic buildings and landscape features and how they have changed over time.
- Include a discussion of integrity; for guidance, see the Statement of Integrity on the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.

Statement of Significance (NR Form Section 8)



Left: Rohrer Farm Springhouse, Lancaster County. Right: Illustration of home dairying, *Progress of the Dairy*, 1819.

Use the agricultural context for guidance in writing the Statement of Significance

- Read the relevant regional narrative. It appears on the “Pennsylvania’s Agricultural History” portion of the website.
- Refer to the Registration Requirements for the state and region. These appear at the end of the narrative.
- In the Statement of Significance, explain how the property you have researched meets the Registration Requirements.

Registration Requirements

- The statewide requirements focus on patterns of labor, production, tenancy, culture, and mechanization.
- Regional requirements focus on buildings and landscapes typical of the region.

EXAMPLE: Sample Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph incorporating Registration Requirements for both **state** and **region**

“The McClelland-Grimes farm meets the Registration Requirements for the property type “farm” under Criterion A in the area of agriculture for its association with the development of agriculture in the “Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising” Historic Agricultural Region for three specific periods of agricultural development: 1850-1890; 1890-1930; and 1930-1960. The farm’s **historic production patterns, labor organization, and mechanization levels** richly and intensively illustrate the region’s agricultural history for each of the three periods mentioned; and thus the farm’s agricultural history also mirrors the important changes from one period to another. More specifically, the farm’s production patterns, as well as its **earliest buildings and landscape features** (house, smoke house/ice house, barn, sheep barn, pasture land, crop land, wood lot) constitute an exceptional example of the peak period of southwestern Pennsylvania sheep raising (1850-1890), **when leadership in fine-wool sheep combined with diversified crop and livestock strategies**, leading to general prosperity in the rural districts. In the following period (1890-1930), the farm’s production patterns reflect a downturn in sheep raising and consequent greater emphasis on diversification, as well as a turn to subsurface resources to generate income. Buildings and landscape features added or developed during this period include the wash house, corn crib, and scale shed, each of which typifies diversification beyond sheep into other income- or subsistence-generating enterprises. Pasture land, wood lot, and crop land continued in use. In the final period (1930-1960), the farm’s economic patterns closely followed those in the region, in that **further adjustments such as poultry raising** were made in a declining agricultural economy. The poultry house is the only extant building that likely dates to this period, but this too is symptomatic since so many resources had to be reused during a time of comparative scarcity. As before, pasture land, wood lot, and crop land continued in use.”

Additional Primary Sources for Documentation

- The sources listed in slides 34-41 may provide valuable additional information as you assemble the Narrative Description and Statement of Significance. While they are not necessarily required, they can help to strengthen the case for listing.

Published Local Histories

- Biographies
- Images

John and
Elizabeth Black,
image from David
Craft's 1878
history of
Bradford County



Maps and Atlases

- County landownership maps
- Sanborn company fire insurance maps
- US Post Office rural delivery maps
- Maps contained in directories
- Old topo maps
- Online offerings are continually expanding
- [Right]: portion of the 1858 Adams County landownership map by G. M. Hopkins. Available online at the Library of Congress “American Memory” website.





Newspaper Advertisements

SHERIFF'S SALE.

IN pursuance of a writ of *Venditioni Exponas*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Adams county, Pennsylvania, and to me directed, will be exposed to Public Sale, on *Saturday, the 3d day of January next*, at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, the following property, viz :

A TRACT OF LAND
situate in Hamilton township, Adams county, Pa., adjoining lands of Daniel Bender, John Grove, John Mummert and others; the turnpike leading from East Berlin to Hanover passing through the same. It contains **96 ACRES**, more or less, the Improvements being a

 **ONE-STORY STONE DWELLING,**
a Spring House, a large Brick Bank Barn, with Wagon Sheds and Cribs. There is a good spring of water near the dwelling. About 20 Acres are in good

TIMBER, 
with a due portion of Meadow. There is an **ORCHARD** of good Fruit, with a Cider Press. There is also on the premises a One-Story **LOG TENANT HOUSE**. The farm is in a good state of cultivation. Seized and taken in execution as the estate of **ISAAC TRIMMER**.

JOHN SCOTT, Sheriff.

Sheriff's office, Gettysburg. }
Dec 10, 1851. }

Ten per cent. of the purchase money upon all sales by the Sheriff, must be paid over immediately after the property is struck down, and on failure to comply therewith, the property will be again put up

If you know the date of a transaction, it may be worthwhile to check local newspaper holdings for an advertisement.

Tax Records

Tax records can provide clues to a property's history, especially in pinpointing changes in value that could signal construction periods. Some counties included architectural valuations in their tax records. Tax records may also contain information on landlords and tenants.

Persons Names and Occupations.	Title of Land.	Number of Acres.	Rate per Acre.		Hinges & Inc.	Lots.	Mile. & Kind thereof.	Diplomer.	Tanyard's Slaves.	Scotchmen's.	Mares & Calving.	Cattle.	Fertile.	1805.		1807.	
			D.	Ct.										Doll.	Ct.	Doll.	Ct.
William Robert Jr	Wart	200	1	50							2	2			228		1876
Edward John & Sons	Wart	100	1	50							2	2			228		
William Robert Sr	Wart	400 264	2	50							3	4			1066		1666
Wearner Jacob	Wart	100	1								1						180
Wray John												1					8
James Joseph	pat.	100	1								2	3			228		1876
James William											4	4					1634

Conemaugh Township, Indiana County tax list, 1805-7. Accessed 8/2/06 at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/taxes/conemaugh18051807/page3.pdf>

Wills and Probate Records

- Wills occasionally contain architectural information, for example descriptions of buildings or farmlands.
- Probate records may contain property inventories that help establish mechanization or even farm production patterns. Occasionally they have invoices indicating the date and extent of building alterations.

Population Census Records

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.																						
SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.																						
Name of County <u>Nebraska</u> (Supervisor's District No. <u>221</u> Sheet No. <u>A</u>)																						
County <u>Franklin</u> (Enumeration District No. <u>27</u>)																						
Name of Incorporated City, Town, or Village, within the above-named Division _____ (Name of Institution _____) (Ward of City _____)																						
Enumerated by me on the <u>23rd</u> day of June, 1900, <u>J. D. Holmes</u> Enumerator.																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8			9			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44			45	46	47	48	49	50			
											44	45	46									
1	John B. B.	Bachelor	25	12	1925	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Franklin B.	Bachelor	28	12	1925	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Thomas B.	Married	25	12	1925	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Copyright © 1908 S.K. Publications

Manuscript census records can establish household residency patterns and labor patterns. Numerous websites now offer help in locating and interpreting these documents.

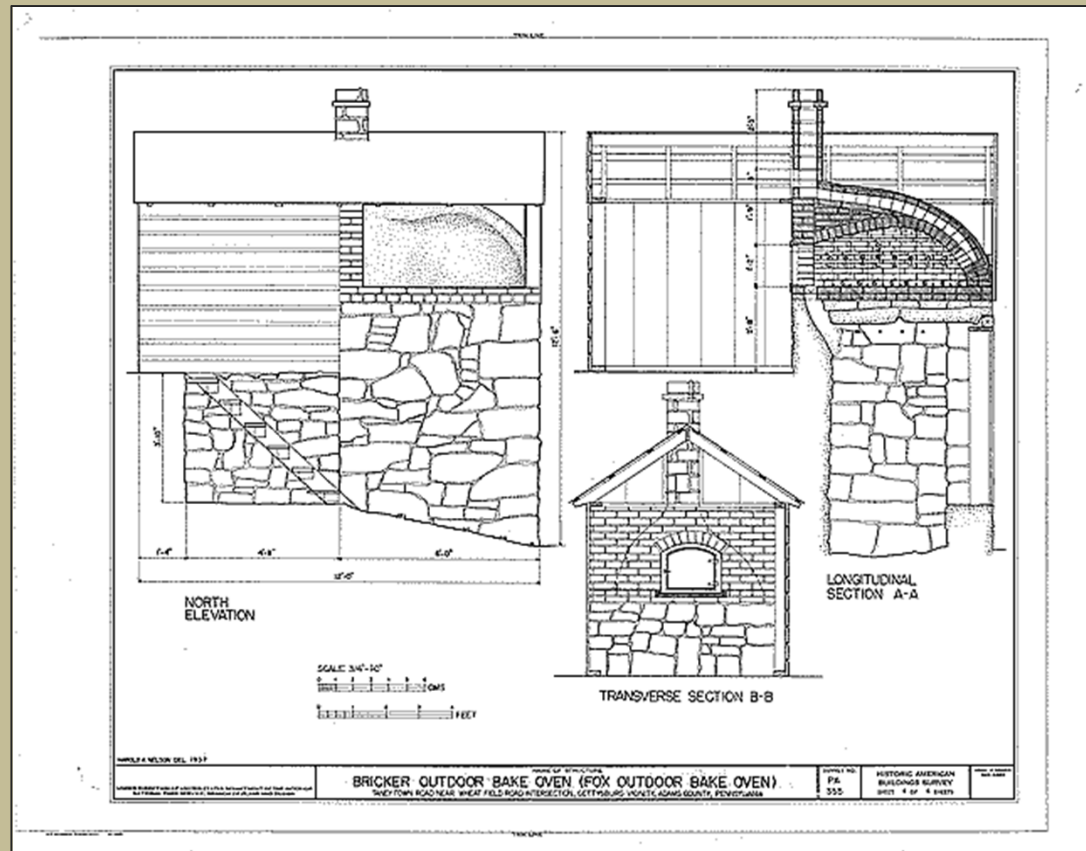
1900 Manuscript Population Census, Franklin County, Nebraska. Courtesy of <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ne/franklin/census/1900/54-06a.jpg>

Other Primary Sources

- Individual farm ledgers and family papers
- 1798 Direct Tax
- Local Newspapers
- Directories
- Agricultural Extension records
- Farm Periodicals
- Insurance records
- Mechanics' Liens
- Pennsylvania State Archives

Useful Websites

Many specialized websites offer historical and current information about Pennsylvania agricultural history, buildings, and landscapes. There is a list in the Bibliography section of the project website.



Historic American Buildings Survey image



Part II: Documenting **Historic
Agricultural Districts** in
Pennsylvania

Berks County farm

Introduction

- In the Pennsylvania MPDF for Agriculture, Registration Requirements are given for three property types: farmsteads, farms, and historic agricultural districts. Documenting a historic agricultural district differs from documenting a farmstead or farm because of the large geographic area and multiple properties involved. Moreover, in a historic agricultural district, not all resources need to be individually eligible for listing. Rather, the district's eligibility derives from the collective character of the whole.
- The MPDF contains in-depth historical analysis and Registration Requirements for districts, but it does not address practical issues involved in defining and documenting a historic agricultural district.
- Slides 44-73 give direction on how to assemble required documentation for the Narrative Statement section (section 7) and the Statement of Significance (section 8) of the National Register form.

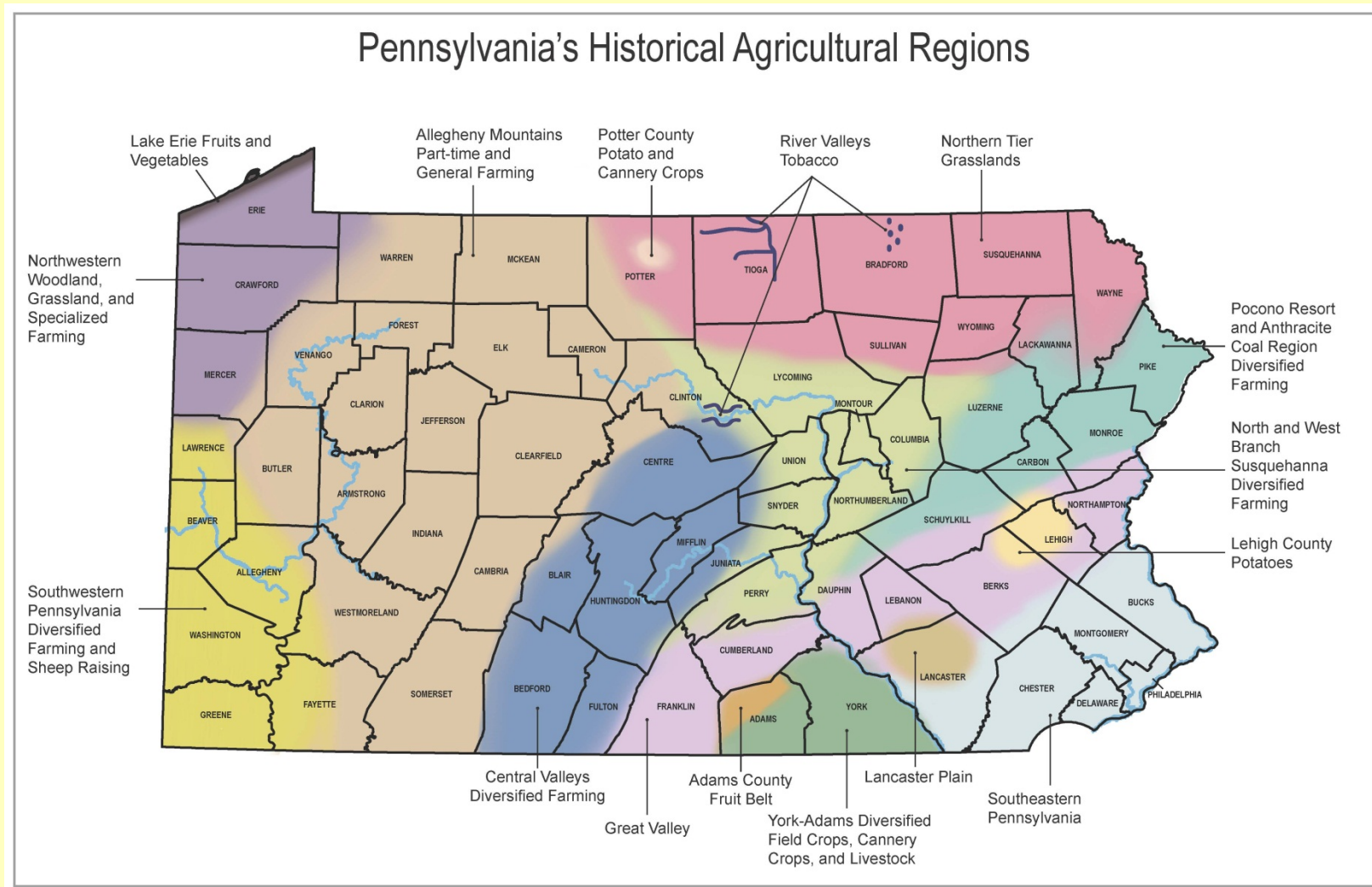
Definitions

- Farmstead: the farm dwelling[s]; barn; outbuildings; and the immediately surrounding land on which these buildings are situated. It normally excludes cropland, meadow, pasture, orchard, and woodland, but would include such landscape features as yards, windbreaks, ponds, gardens, ornamental trees, decorative fences, driveways, etc.
- Farm: the farmstead plus crop fields, meadows, pastures, orchards, woodlots, etc., including landscape features such as fences, tree lines, contour strips, streams, etc. and circulation networks.
- Historic Agricultural District: a group of farms which share common architectural and agricultural landscape features; are linked together by historic transportation corridors, including roads, railroads, paths, and/ or canals; and together express characteristic features of local historical agricultural patterns.

Overview – four basic steps to nominating a historic agricultural district

- 1) Conduct a preliminary evaluation for potential significance and integrity
- 2) Choose boundaries
- 3) Assemble documentation for Narrative Description: the Inventory
- 4) Assemble documentation for Statement of Significance

Preliminary Evaluation: Read the MPDF narrative for the region where the potential district is located. (found on Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website)



Parts of the Regional Narrative to Review with special care

- Registration Requirements
- Statement of Integrity

Conduct a preliminary evaluation:
Rule of Thumb # 1

- *Most of the individual farms should possess some of the elements required for individual eligibility for farms.*
 - Since they in all likelihood have different combinations of the elements, they will meet Registration Requirements as a collective whole. When assessing integrity for individual farmsteads and farms, refer to the MPDF discussion of integrity. Not every farmstead or farm in a district must have integrity, but most should.

Preliminary Evaluation: Rule of Thumb # 2

- *Give agricultural landscape features equal weight with buildings.*
Often an agricultural district will have a lower overall percentage of contributing properties than is typical in an urban historic district, yet will possess integrity because the contributing resources occupy a large percentage of the *land area* within the district. These features often may be counted as contributing sites. On the other hand, aerials may show that today's crop fields have obliterated historic patterns, perhaps by consolidating and eliminating treelines and woodlots. In that case, landscape integrity would be lacking, and call into question the overall integrity of the district. Therefore, in order to determine the extent to which historic agricultural landscape features remain, it is important to consult historic aerial photographs very early in the process. Check current aerial views against the historic aerials provided in the Penn Pilot website. Make sure that landscape features like woodlots, treelines, orchards, crop fields, contour strips, roads, and farm lanes in the proposed district closely follow those visible on the pre-1960 aerials.

- Bradford County PA



- 1939 vs 2012: The woodlot in the center is little changed, but fields around it have been consolidated. (The 1960 aerial shows this process already begun, so integrity may not be compromised if the period of significance extends to 1960.) Some tree lines remain. Overall quite a few fields retain their size and shape.

Preliminary Evaluation: Rule of Thumb # 3

- *Noncontributing resources should minimally disrupt visual and physical continuity.* For example, a Historic Agricultural District might have 200 contributing resources and 100 noncontributing tract houses; but those 100 tract houses might be localized in 100 of a total 2,500 acres, while the remaining 2,400 acres are farmland with extant historic landscape features such as crop fields, woodlots, treelines, contour strips, and the like. By contrast, scattered large suburban houses on 5-10 acre tracts probably compromise integrity more. Modern houses situated within historic woodlots are not always disruptive, especially if the woodlot's shape and edges are consistent with historic patterns. Nonagricultural historic resources do not contribute under Criterion A for Agriculture, but neither do they necessarily impair integrity.

Take Stock

- If after a preliminary evaluation the district seems to satisfy the registration requirements and possesses integrity, proceed to the next step.

Choose Boundaries

- The following features, or a combination of them, can create defensible district boundaries. (These guidelines are consistent with advice as given in NR Bulletin 30, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes,” especially where “edges” are concerned.)
 - landscape features
 - village limits
 - relationship to features lacking integrity

Landscape features: topography

Landscape features create outer edges by posing physical and visual limits around a coherent interior. Topographic features often direct development inward or along them rather than across them.



Bethel Ridge Road and Scott Hollow road, Washington County (Southwestern Pennsylvania region). Southwestern Pennsylvania's heavily dissected natural hollows, valleys, and ridges often define agricultural areas well. The two roads align two visually and topographically separate groups of farms, one along a ridge and the other in a hollow. Avella quadrangle.

Landscape Features: waterways and roads

Waterways historically enclosed coherent agricultural communities.

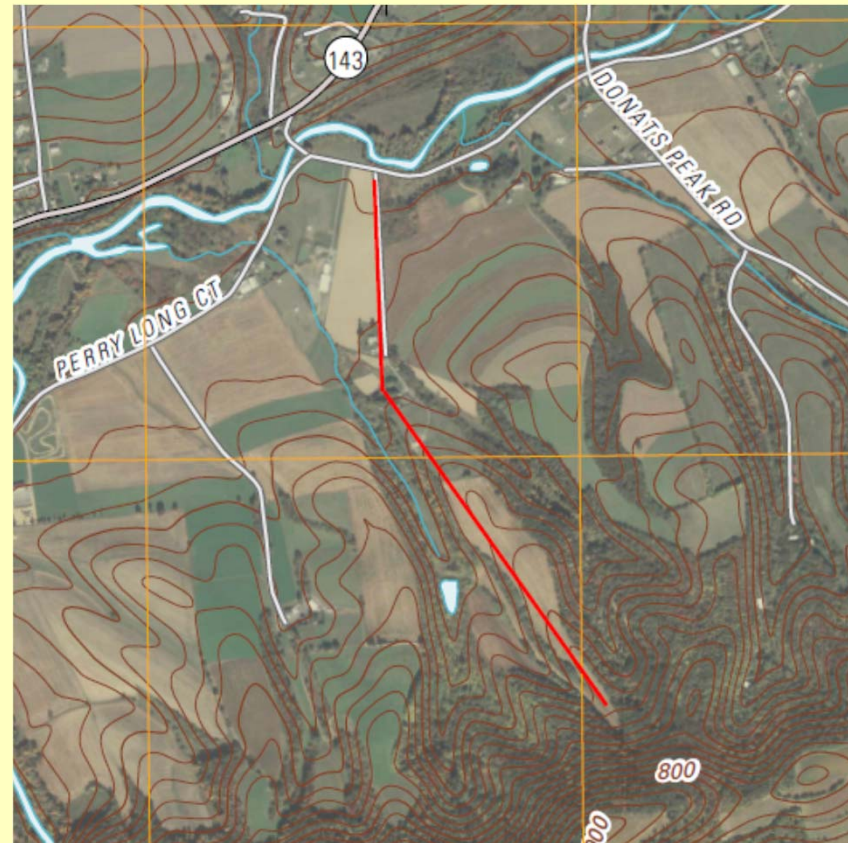
Homets Ferry, Bradford County (Northern Tier Grasslands region). The Susquehanna River, a stream with a chain of dams and ponds, and steep wooded hills enclose an agricultural area within the river bend. Route 6 cuts off the area to the east. Wyalusing, PA quadrangle.



Landscape Features: lanes and woodlots

These types of features are reasonable edges for a historic agricultural district because they signify an abrupt landscape change. Woodlots and steep slopes also demarcate or limit types of land use, and often are situated on a farm's perimeter.

Lynnport, Lehigh County
(Lehigh County potatoes region).
In red, a road follows a property line demarcated by a long woodlot (historically a thinner tree line) and a farm lane (present on historic aerials New Tripoli quadrangle).



Landscape Features: Rail and Canal Lines

Some constructed landscape features also may function as boundaries. For example, rail lines and canals functioned a little like today's limited-access highways, because crossings are few. Once in place, they created boundaries by inhibiting travel across them. Often they closely follow road or river paths.



Parallel rail lines, East Thornton, Erie County (Northwestern Pennsylvania region). 1939 aerial

Village Limits

Another type of demarcating boundary would be village limits. Even in unincorporated villages where there are no formal boundaries, villages are organized into densely built streets and lots, with an abrupt transition between country and village.



Rehrersburg, Berks County (Great Valley region). The village has a densely built linear plan. The 1938 aerial shows an abrupt transition to open fields on all sides. The transition is still visible today.

Integrity and Boundaries

Integrity should be invoked as a last measure after landscape features and village boundaries are taken into account. In principle a district's edges should not cut a farmstead from its surrounding farm—so if a farmstead along the periphery of a district might be “contributing” but its fields are gone, the farmstead should be excluded too. For Historic Agricultural District boundaries, modern intrusions such as industrial sites, suburban development, or recent commercial development should be excluded.



Make an Inventory



Special considerations for Creating a Historic Agricultural District Inventory

- The National Register requires an inventory of resources for every nominated district. Agricultural district inventories don't fit nicely into the Register's standard categories, so special care must be taken to make sure an inventory for a Historic Agricultural District meets NPS standards.
- In the MPDF there are just three property types: farmstead, farm, and historic agricultural district. According to NPS criteria, however, a "farm" cannot itself be a contributing resource. Only individual buildings, structures, objects, or sites can be contributing or noncontributing. So the inventory must evaluate each building, structure, object, or site and not a farmstead or farm as a whole. At the same time, care must be taken to make sure the resources on each individual property are kept together in the inventory.

Inventory Process

- Obtain a map, preferably one with tax parcels overlaid on an aerial and road map.
- Pre-fill a spreadsheet with as much information as possible in advance. A sample sheet is included with this tutorial.
- Traverse the district and fill in the sheet as you go.

This sample map was created by printing out small sections from the online tax parcel locator, then taping them together. Some county offices will print large-format maps. This map was checked against historic aerials and historic landscape features were outlined in green. Noncontributing features were indicated with pink. Tax parcel boundaries and numbers are shown, and in the inventory sheet they are correlated with addresses.

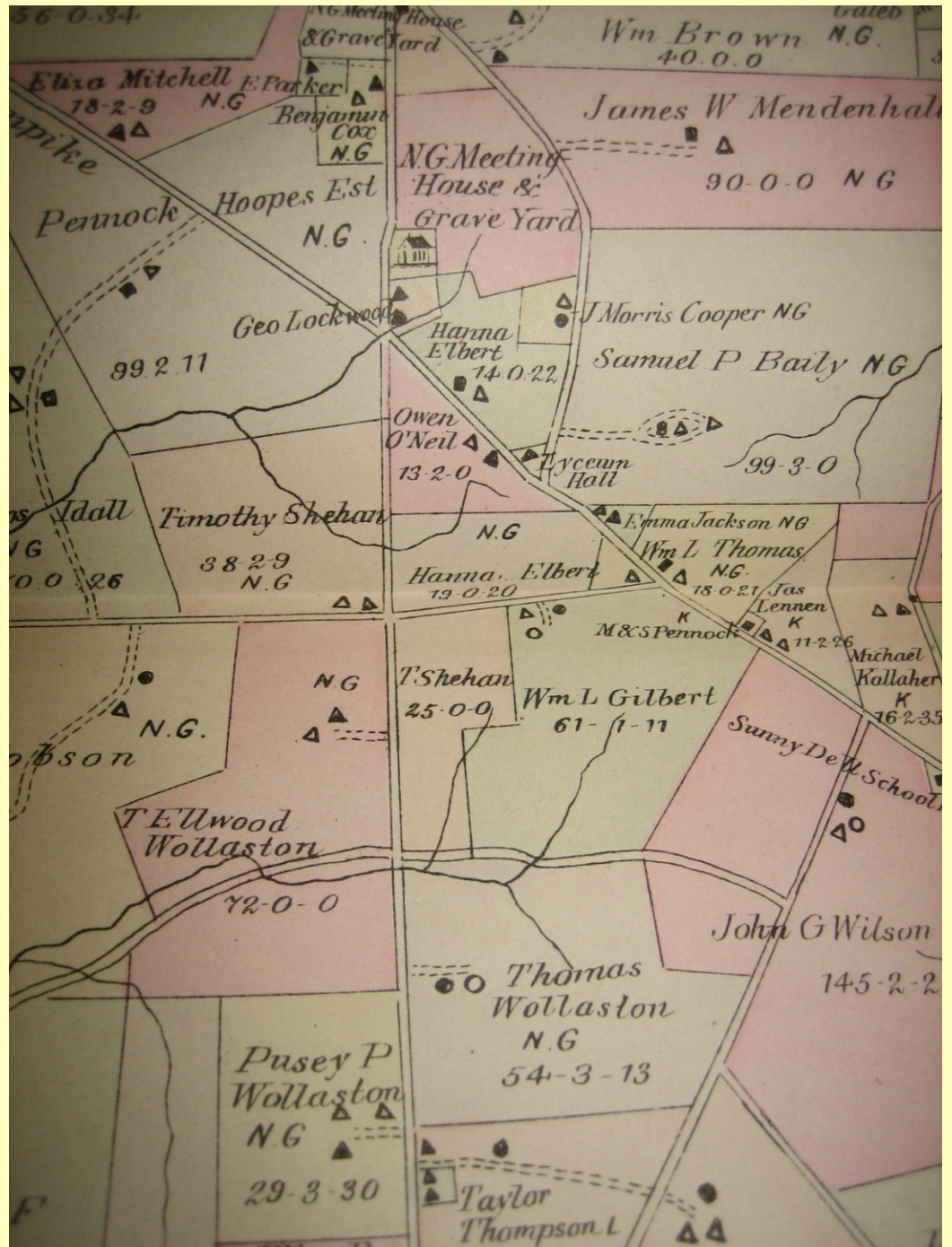


Sample Inventory – partial view

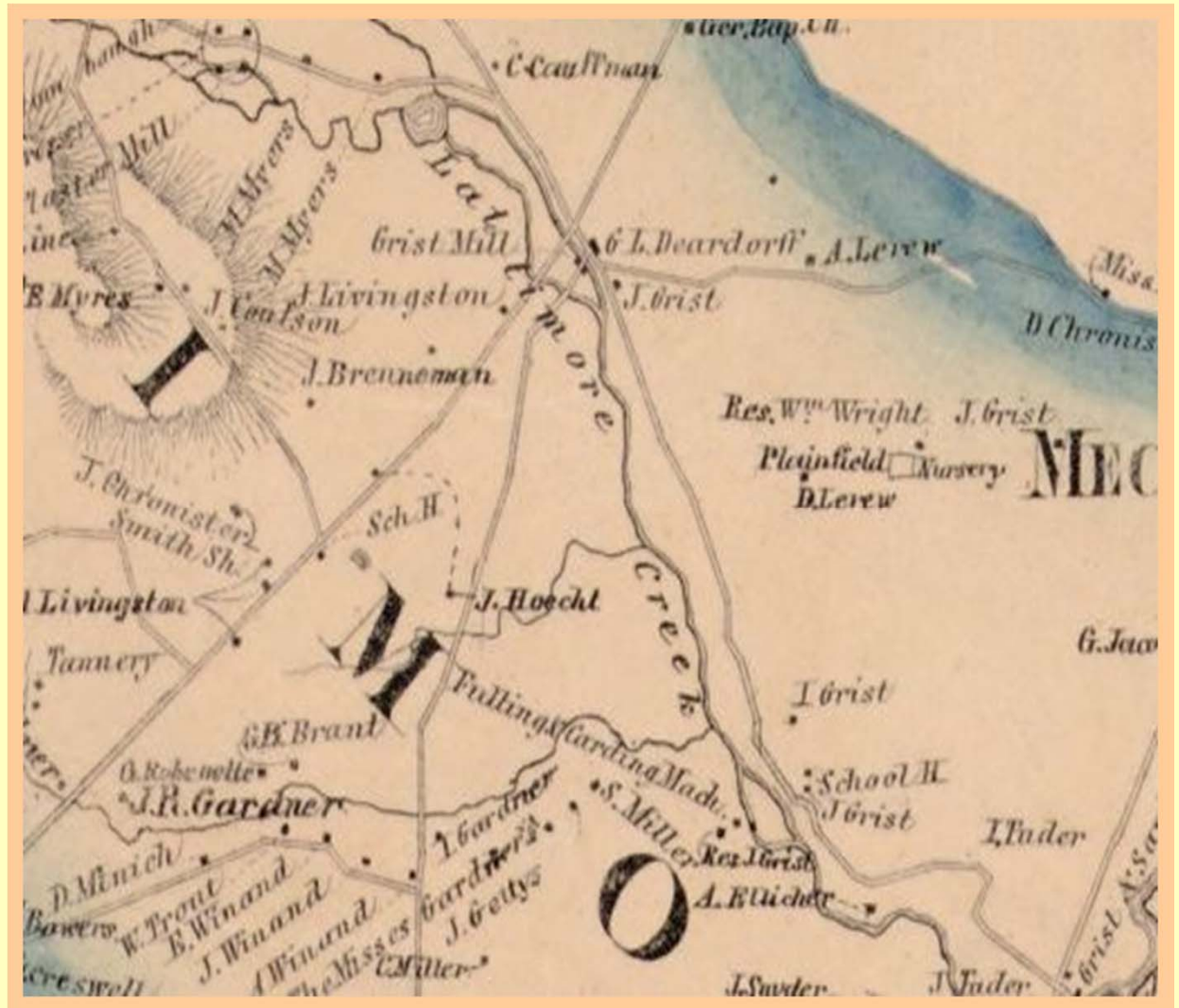
Tax Parcel Number (last four digits plus letter if applicable)	Address	Name of Property: use current owner (as of March 3, 2011, using York County Parcel Viewer)	Buildings (B), Structures (S), Objects (O), and Sites (SI). For Buildings: style or form, material, # of Stories, date, C/NC. For Structures, Objects, and Sites, give name, material if applicable, date, c/nc. If tax parcel contains more than one farmstead, make sure to clearly identify the contents of each farmstead. Totals: Buildings -- Contributing, 76; Noncontributing, 53. Structures: Contributing, 6, Noncontributing, 6. Objects -- none. Sites: Contributing, 36; noncontributing, 7. There are no bridges within the district boundaries. Total acreage is approximately 1,000.						Optional Notes (Farm acreage, historic name, etc.)	
			B, S, O, or SI	Style/Form	Material	Stories	Date	C/NC		Historic Function
0025A	4065 MYERS RD	Farmer, Ervin H and Violet A	B	Split Level	horizontal board/brick veneer	2 stories	c 1990	NC	Domestic/Single Dwelling	7.05 ac.
			B	Gambrel Roof Garage	wood/vertical board	1 story	c 1990	NC	Domestic/Secondary Structure	
0025A	6684 FAIR SCHOOL RD	Hayward, Mary Ellen	B	5 bay house	wood horizontal siding	3 stories	c 1850-80	C	Domestic/Single Dwelling	50.2 ac; P. Schmidt on atlas. Original house was 3 bays, log, center chimney plan; ell c. 1900; rear kitchen c. 1960. Summer kitchen restored c. 1995. Barn was originally a double crib log barn; damaged in storm recently and completely re-sided. Part of crib remains. Drive thru corn crib is heavy timber frame with mortise and tenon joints, hewn. Pond date is according to owner.
			B	spring house/summer kitchen	wood horizontal board	2.5 stories	c 1890	C	Agriculture/Subsistence/processing	
			B	Garage	wood vertical board	1 story	c. 1990	NC	Domestic/Secondary Structure	
			B	forebay bank barn	wood/vertical board	3 levels	c 1875	NC	Agriculture/Subsistence	
			B	corncrib/machine shed	wood/horizontal cribbing	1 story	c. 1860	C	Agriculture/Subsistence/storage	
			B	utility shed	T-111	1.5 story	c. 2005	NC	Agriculture/Subsistence	
			B	Tool Shed	frame/horizontal siding	1 story	c. 1950	C	Domestic/Secondary Structure	
			SI	pond	Water	Blank Space	c. 1960	C	Agriculture/Subsistence/Irrigation facility	
			SI	Farm crop field	Plants	Blank Space	pre 1938	C	Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Field	

Documentary Research – Historic Agricultural Districts

Simply by meeting the Registration Requirements, the district's resources themselves help to document patterns of agriculture in the region. It is not necessary or even possible to thoroughly document every single farm in a large historic agricultural district. Documentation for a district requires a more selective approach than for an individual nomination.



Normally, it will be sufficient to identify selected owners from a county landownership map, atlas, rural delivery map, or rural directory and find their farm production in the manuscript agriculture census. See Slides 20-21.



Adams County, 1858 landownership map

If there is no historic landownership map...

- Talk to BHP staff to find out how to proceed. Township summaries may serve as a proxy, or BHP may suggest deed traces for one or two selected historic farms within the district.

From these materials, write the Narrative Description.

- An introductory paragraph should give the total number of farms and acres; total numbers of buildings, structures, objects, and sites; how many of each are contributing and noncontributing; and a one-or two-sentence summary.

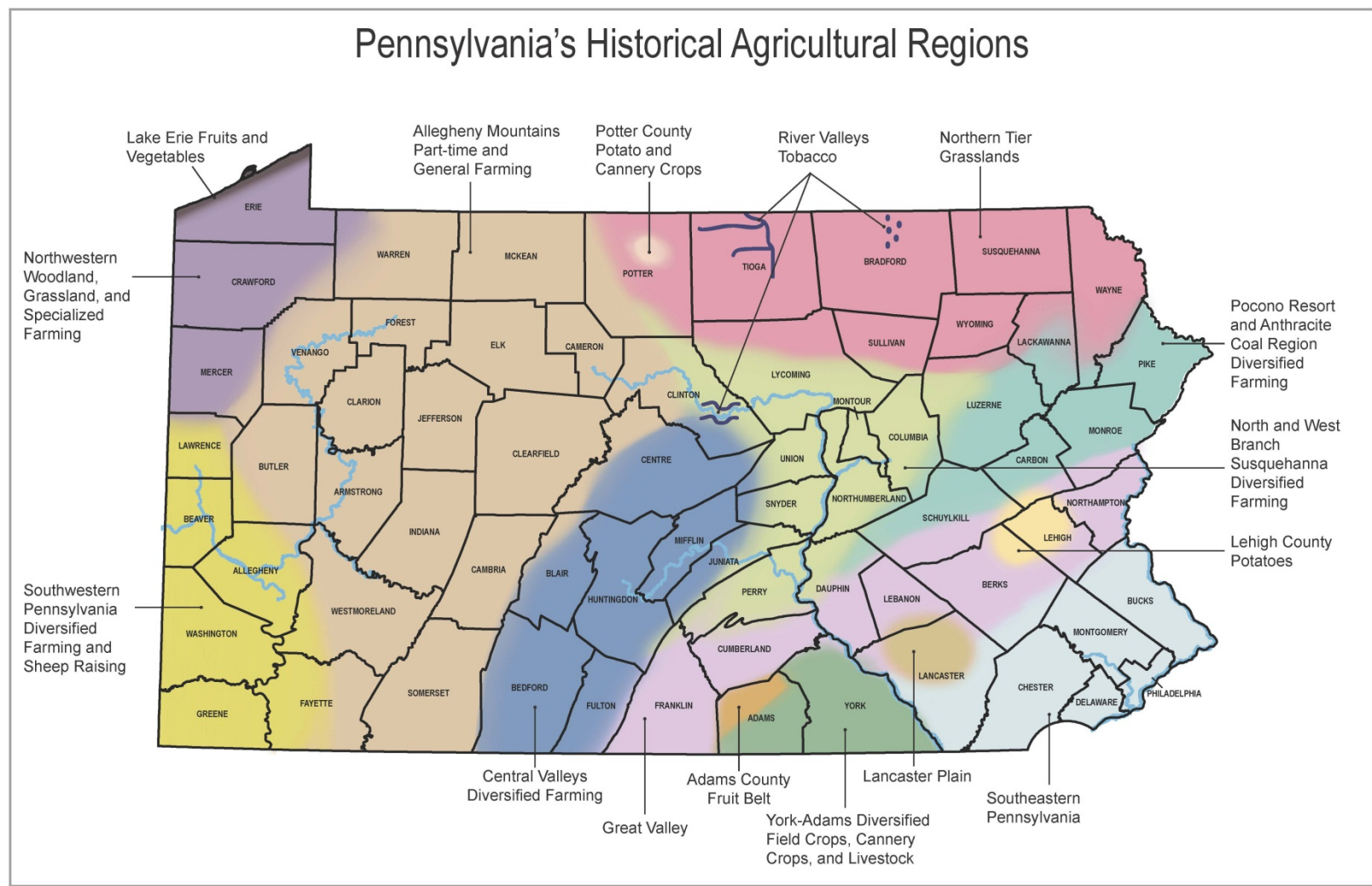
Sample Introductory Summary

- The Pierceville Run Historic Agricultural District is located in Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania. The district is in the southwestern part of the county about three miles from the Maryland line. It is about two and a half miles long and three quarters of a mile wide, and covers approximately 1,000 acres. The district is bordered on the west, north, and east sides by the Pierceville Run. Fed by numerous springs in the area, the Pierceville Run flows approximately 2.67 miles through southern York County until it joins Centerville Run, then flows into the South Branch Codorus Creek just north of Centerville, Pennsylvania, and ultimately flows into the Lower Susquehanna River. The district's southern and southeastern borders are defined by woodlots and treelines coincident with property lines along the south and southeastern side of Fair School Road (Photo 36). Myers, Meckley, Rockville, and Narrow Gauge Roads parallel the path of the Pierceville Run and (except for one sliver along Narrow Gauge Road) define the district boundaries from the western to eastern sides, going clockwise (Photos 1 and 2). Fair School Road parallels the southern boundary. Mummert Road bisects the district. Most farms are sited along roads, but some are situated at the end of farm lanes. Most of the farms in the district's interior are divided by the two main interior roads, Fair School Road and Mummert Road.
-
- Within its boundaries are 14 historic farms with well-defined and long-established agricultural buildings, fields, and woodlots. The average acreage of the farms is 61.6, very close to the 1880 average for York County, which was 66, and even closer to Codorus Township's 64 for that year. There are 76 contributing and 53 noncontributing buildings in the historic agricultural district. There are 6 contributing and 6 noncontributing structures. There are 36 contributing sites and 7 noncontributing sites. The contributing sites consist of historic farm fields, ponds, woodlots, and gardens, and together they comprise roughly 75-80% of the land area within the district. There are no objects within the district. There are no bridges within the district.

Body of the Narrative Description

- Systematically describe the district's historic buildings and landscape features and how they have changed over time.
- Include a discussion of integrity; for guidance, see the Statement of Integrity on the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website.

Return to the regional narrative to develop the Statement of Significance.



- Read the relevant regional context.
- Refer again to the Registration Requirements for the region. These are explained at the end of the narrative.
- In the Statement of Significance, demonstrate systematically how the district meets the requirements.

Sample (summary)

- “The history and landscape of the Pierceville Run Historic Agricultural District reflect the significant agricultural changes over time in the York-Adams farming region between 1830 and 1960. The district reflects three periods of development identified for this region: small diversified farms with a high percentage of cleared acres in crops and small-scale livestock management between 1830 and 1885; a shift in production to emphasize poultry, swine, and cannery/truck crops between 1885 and 1940; and the post-war transition to fossil fuels, with a decrease in the overall range of products. The documentary record, buildings, and landscapes illustrate these patterns in production as well as the labor, land tenure, and culture characteristic of the region during the period of significance. The district attains internal consistency through locally characteristic social patterns and landscape features.”
- In the body, systematically show how buildings, landscapes, and documents illustrate the trends as set out in the context narrative.

- If you have questions or encounter problems, please contact the Bureau for Historic Preservation.
- Thank you and good luck!