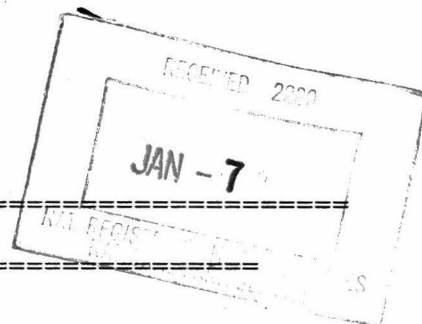


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic name: **Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp**

Other names/site number: **Ferrwood Music Camp**

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & number: **Middle Road, approximately .25 mile northeast of intersection of Middle Road (Township Highway 341) and State Route 3021 (South Old Turnpike)**

City or town: **Butler Township**

vicinity: **N/A**

State: **Pennsylvania** code: **PA** county: **Luzerne**

code: **079**

Not for publication: **N/A**

Zip code: **18222**

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jan A. Cutler

Signature of certifying official

12-23-03

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

Luzerne County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beal
2/20/04

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within District:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
	0	sites
1	3	structures
	0	objects
3	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: **NONE**.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.): **N/A**

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

Luzerne County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Camp

Health Care

Sanitarium

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Camp

Recreation/Culture

Music Facility

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: No Style.

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

roof: Asphalt

walls: Wood, Weatherboard

other: Glass

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.):

See Continuation Sheets.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description:

The Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp is situated in the center of a 17.8 acre plot on Middle Road (Township Highway 341), approximately .25 mile northeast of intersection of Middle Road and State Route 3021 (South Old Turnpike Road) in Butler Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The camp consists of two contributing, vernacular wood frame buildings, a dormitory (1927) and a dining room/kitchen (circa 1935), and one contributing structure, a wood frame pump house (1927). The three non-contributing structures are a concrete and metal band shell, an open-sided, treated lumber picnic pavilion with a shingled roof, and a seven-foot high chain link fence with gate, all circa 1980. A treated lumber loading dock (circa 1980) and a food storage trailer (circa 1980) connect to the dining room/kitchen building's south facade. A treated lumber deck supporting two walk-in coolers (circa 1980) connects to dining room/kitchen building's northeast facade. Both the dormitory and dining room/kitchen buildings retain their early twentieth century appearance. While some plumbing and mechanical updating has occurred in the past thirty-five years as part of the property's use as a music camp, both the exterior and interior of the buildings reflect the historic and architectural character as displayed in existing historic photographs. The circa 1980 band shell and picnic pavilion located across the lawn from the principal historic buildings do not adversely affect the original historic character of the camp's setting. Only the large, mature conifer and deciduous trees, planted at the time of the camp's construction, alter the historic setting as displayed in historic photographs.¹ Overall, the camp retains its historical integrity.

An unpaved entry road surrounded by hay fields leads to the camp. A chain link fence bisects the entry road and partially borders the camp's southern boundary, at the entrance to the camp. The various camp buildings and structures sit in an open area surround by wooded areas. A small creek on the west side of the property flows southwest into Little Nescopeck Creek located on the south of Middle Road.

¹ Historic Photographs, 1928-1940. Archives of American Lung Association, Kirby Health Center, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

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**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA**

Section 7 Page 2

The campsite overlooks large expanses of rural landscape dotted with modern housing development. The dormitory building and dining room/kitchen building face west and are shielded by a line of mature conifer trees planted along the façades. Clumps of mature deciduous tress, planted just beyond the conifers, create a shaded sitting area overlooking a large lawn in front of the main dormitory building. A flagpole (1927), an uncounted small scale element, stands in the center of the sitting area, west of the dormitory building. The metal band shell with a concrete floor faces northeast across the lawn from the main buildings. Just to the north of the band shell is the site of the camp's original 20'x40' swimming pool, backfilled circa 1980, and the open-sided picnic pavilion. Located adjacent to the surrounding wooded area north of the dormitory and dining room/kitchen buildings is a pump house with a steel holding tank that provides water to the main buildings.

The vernacular, wood frame dormitory (1927), is a three-bay clapboard sided building. Each bay contains a doorway. The front façade has two sets of quadruple-ganged, double-hung windows flanking each doorway. A screened porch with a center doorway to the shaded sitting area outside extends across the front façade.

The rear façade contains two dormitory wings extending northeast creating a center courtyard reached from a doorway in the center bay. Two sets of quadruple-ganged, double-hung windows on each dormitory wing face the rear courtyard. Five double-hung windows fenestrate the opposite side of each wing. The rear façade of each dormitory wing contains two double- hung windows.

Attached to the southeast side of the dormitory by a screened ramp is a vernacular, wood frame dining room/kitchen building, circa 1935². The main entrance is flanked by two sets of quadruple-ganged, double-hung windows on the north side and a set of double-ganged, double-hung windows on the south. The remainder of the front façade contains three separate double-hung windows. The south facade also contains a loading dock entrance and a

² The dining room/kitchen building first appears in historic photographs dated 1935. Historic Photographs, 1928-1940. Archives of American Lung Association, Kirby Health Center, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

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**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA**

Section 7 Page 3

quadruple-ganged, double-hung window grouping.

Three sets of quadruple-ganged, double-hung windows flank a rear entrance. A wing extends to the rear of the building on its northeast end. A wooden deck attached to the rear holds two walk-in coolers. Three commercial air exhaust units are attached to the wing's roof.

The central bay room of the dormitory is a 46'x20' meeting/community room. Wood paneling covers the walls and ceiling. A large stone fireplace occupies a section of the east wall. Couches and chairs are liberally distributed throughout the room. Originally, this room served as a dining and recreation room with a section for kitchen facilities, but no record seems to exist indicating the exact location of the facilities.

The north end of the building contains the boys' dormitory accessed from both the meeting community room and the front façade porch. The main building space is 32'x20' with the rear wing measuring 48'x20'. The space has hard wood floors and the walls and ceiling are exposed wood framing. Simple incandescent light fixtures with exposed bulbs hang from wooden beams. The northern end contains a 12'x10' counselor's bedroom on the northwest side and a 12'x10' bath and shower room on the northeast side. A similar configuration exists at the far northeast end of the boys' dormitory wing. The girls' dormitory on the south end of the building mimics the boys' dormitory in all details. Today both dormitories are furnished with surplus bunk beds distributed along all the walls.

The dining room/kitchen building contains a 44'x20' dining area on the north end and a 22'x20' kitchen and storage area on the south side. The dining area contains hard wood floors, while the kitchen and storage area floors are covered with linoleum. All walls and the ceiling of both areas are exposed wood framing. Simple incandescent light fixtures with exposed bulbs hang from wooden beams. A 12'x16' wing on the northeast end contains sleeping space for the kitchen staff and a bath and shower room.

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Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 7 Page 4

A counter separates the dining area and kitchen. The kitchen has a center cooking/service island situated under a commercial exhaust unit. Sinks and clean up counters run along the east wall. Two doorways open to a storage room for utensils and dry goods on the west side.

Despite the camp's circa 1980 loading dock, food storage trailer, and deck connected to dining room/kitchen building's northeast façade, the historic dormitory and dining room/kitchen buildings retain their early twentieth century appearance. While some plumbing and mechanical updating has occurred in the past thirty-five years as part of the property's use as a music camp, both the exterior and interior of the buildings reflect the historic and architectural character as displayed in existing historic photographs. The circa 1980 band shell and picnic pavilion located across the lawn from the principal historic buildings do not adversely affect the original historic character of the camp's setting. Only the large, mature conifer and deciduous trees, planted at the time of the camp's construction, alter the historic setting as displayed in historic photographs.³ Overall, the camp retains its historical integrity.

³ Historic Photographs, 1928-1940. Archives of American Lung Association, Kirby Health Center, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

Luzerne County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance: **1927-1953**

Significant Dates: **N/A**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Unknown**

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**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
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8. Statement of Significance:

The Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp is significant during the period 1927 to 1953 under Criterion A in the area of Health/Medicine as a resource associated with the national, state, and local crusade against tuberculosis waged in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Beginning in the second decade of the twentieth century, government, voluntary associations, and education and treatment organizations promoted health-education campaigns designed to promote personal responsibility for maintaining good health by building up resistance to the disease through personal hygiene, nutrition, exercise and rest. Fresh air camps were a principal component of these campaigns nationally, throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Luzerne County. The Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp, constructed by the county and operated by the Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society, is an example, then, of one approach to preventing tuberculosis in a historic movement in the area of Health/Medicine. The period of significance runs from 1927 to 1953 reflecting the camp's opening date to the fifty-year National Register requirement.

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp History:

Beginning in 1922, The Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society, in cooperation with Wilkes-Barre's Home For Friendless Children, maintained a small fresh air camp for children on the farm of Charles W. Kunkle at Kunkle (Dallas Township) in northwestern Luzerne County, near the Wyoming County boundary. Twenty-eight boys and girls attended each year using tents or boarding at the Kunkle farmhouse.⁴

On May 13, 1927, the Luzerne County Commissioners agreed to provide an undeveloped parcel of land owned by the county in Butler Township, in southern Luzerne County north of the City of Hazleton, and approximately \$12,000 to construct and equip a fresh air camp for undernourished Luzerne County children predisposed to tuberculosis. Maintained by private contributions made to the Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society, the Upper Luzerne County Tuberculosis Society (Pittston), the Plymouth

⁴ "Summer Camp at Luzerne", *Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society*. Philadelphia: The Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society, September, 1923, 6. The article does not reveal the exact location of the farm.

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Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 8 Page 2

Tuberculosis Society, the Tuberculosis Society of the Middle Coal Field District (Hazleton), and the Nanticoke Tuberculosis Society mainly through the region's "Christmas Seal" campaign, the camp was dedicated on July 1, 1927 and accommodated sixty-seven children during two three-week sessions in July and August. The Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society operated the camp and, in cooperation with Luzerne County schools, welfare agencies and private physicians selected the children.

The selected children received a complete physical examination, tuberculin tests, and x-rays. Children between the ages of six and twelve were chosen on a priority scale: first priority - contacts, positive tuberculin tests, and negative x-rays; second priority - non-contacts positive tuberculin tests and negative x-rays; third priority - heart problems; fourth priority - underweight. During the following winter, the county's tuberculosis societies monitored the children, and their parents received instruction in proper health and dietary instruction. Two hundred and eleven home visits were made by the societies' volunteers and three state nurses. Records show a total weight gain of 293¾ pounds, or an average of 6¼ pounds per child.

The camp provided the children with a varied recreational program, a rigorous exercise regimen, extensive sun treatments, nourishing food, and large amounts of milk, designed to increase physical fitness and weight. Sometime between 1931 and 1935, the kitchen and dining room building and the concrete swimming pool were added to the facility. (Vintage photographs from 1935 show the new building and swimming pool, which are not shown in 1928 and 1931 photographs.) Located near the County Boys' Industrial School at Kis-Lyn, that school's farms provided the camp with supplies of beef, vegetables, milk. Campers, dressed in loose fitting diaper-like garments, engaged in supervised calisthenics, heliotherapy sessions⁵, and rest periods each day of camp.

⁵"Before the availability of drugs that successfully cured the body of tubercular infections, a widely accepted treatment for non-pulmonary tuberculosis was sunbathing. The sun had sometimes been blamed for increased activity in tubercular infection of the lungs and was therefore not used to treat this form of tuberculosis. However, the sun offered several curative properties to those suffering from other types of tuberculosis. Sun treatment was used in the treatment of tuberculosis of the glands, bones, joints, peritoneum, skin, eyes, genito-urinary tract, and others. There were several reasons for the prescription of sun treatment to tuberculosis patients. First of all, the sun acts as a bactericide, killing the

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Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 8 Page 3

Historic photographs show children lined up in front of the dormitory building doing calisthenics, "sun bathing" with cloths covering their faces on blankets in the open fields at the campsite, and "napping" on cots in the dormitory building. The photographs also show children engaged in group-play in the camp's swimming pool.⁶ Children were rewarded with points after daily inspection for neatness of cots, sun-cure, rest, eating, and discipline. Entertainment included a radio donated by a resident of Wilkes-Barre.

Through the 1930's, one hundred children were selected to attend the camp each year. In September 1930, the *Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society* reported that the Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp had its "most successful year". During two four-week sessions, the one hundred campers all gained weight with those attending the first session gaining over four hundred ninety pounds. State inspectors visited the camp and "marveled" at the camp's cleanliness, management, and discipline. The camp's staff included a director, Miss Mary H. McKernan, R.N. (Executive Secretary of the Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society), two recreation leaders, two dieticians, and four helpers.

During July and August 1932, another one hundred children attended the camp. A reported "increase in applications" required pre-examination of three hundred forty-one children throughout the county. Highest priority was given to those who had contact with tuberculosis (65 children). Of those children screened, over fifty percent were reported as 10 to 25% underweight. By 1936, the Mantoux test screened prospective

Tubercular bacillus organisms that cause the disease. Exposure to moderately hot temperatures for extended periods of time is sufficient to kill off these bacteria and clear up infections. Furthermore, ergosterol, present in the skin is converted by the sun's UV rays into vitamin D, which was thought to do further damage to the TB bacilli." See: <http://www.lung.ca/tb/tbhistory/treatment/heliotherapy.html>.

⁶ Historic Photographs, 1928-1940. Archives of American Lung Association, Kirby Health Center, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

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Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

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campers.⁷ Those reacting positively received the highest priority. In 1937, four hundred fifty children were examined for the camp, with eighty-eight reacting positive to the Mantoux test. Follow-up x-rays produced negative reports with one exception, classified as "suspicious". Children were also examined for other defects such as dental problems or defective adenoids and tonsils, which were remediated before the start of camping season. In 1939, pre-examination discovered the first actual case of tuberculosis among prospective campers.

By the 1940's, the camp registered over two hundred children a year, except in 1943 when increased costs and decreased fund-raising required a cut back to one hundred-seventy four children. In 1945, the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society reported the Luzerne Fresh Air Camp showed the greatest increase in weight gain, a total of over eight hundred pounds, of all camps throughout the state. By 1948, according to local newspaper reports, over five thousand children had attended the camp and that of the five thousand only two tuberculosis cases developed. That same year, the first asthmatic children were accepted.

Between 1950 and 1952, the number of children attending the camp was reduced back to one hundred each year. Other community organizations helped support the camp in addition to the Luzerne County tuberculosis societies. The Luzerne County Council of Republican Women held annual card parties, attended by 1200 women in 1951, to raise funds for the fresh air camp. Funds were used to entertain campers with party refreshments and to purchase playground equipment, dinner plates, cups, cereal bowls, and stainless steel milk pitchers.

⁷ The Mantoux test is a tuberculosis intracutaneous test that can identify people exposed to the disease. Charles Mantoux of Lyon, France developed the test in 1908. The Mantoux test was capable of a high level of standardization and became the most widely favored procedure for identifying tuberculosis contact in the United States by the 1930's.

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The fresh air camp continued to operate through the 1950's. The last newspaper report of the camp appeared in Hazleton's *The Plain Speaker* on June 21, 1957. While no documentation regarding the actual closing date is available, the camp's closing seems related to the county's attempts to sell the Boys' Industrial School at Kis-Lyn to the state in the early 1960's. A 1959 newspaper article concerning on-going negotiations between Luzerne County and the state lists the fresh air camp facilities as part of the total value of the Kis-Lyn property. In the early 1960's, negotiations between the county and the state broke down, and the county leased the Boys' Industrial School property to the Job Corps. In 1969, the county leased the Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp property and facilities to the Greater Hazleton Philharmonic Society to be used as the Ferrwood Music Camp⁸. The music camp provides instrumental music instruction and recreation for approximately sixty children of the Hazleton area during the summer months.

Health/Medicine Context:

By the mid-nineteenth century, tuberculosis was claiming the lives of approximately 100,000 persons in the United States annually, more than the combined mortality from diphtheria, smallpox, typhoid, and scarlet fever, yet the public accepted this as a natural condition. Physicians claimed that tuberculosis was hereditary and cure practically impossible. Bacteriology was a new science, and the tubercle bacillus was not yet discovered. Public and professional opinion was that tuberculosis victims were doomed to die, and all that could be done was to make them as comfortable as possible during the dying process. In America, wealthy patients were advised to go to the high, dry climates of New Mexico, Colorado, or Arizona. There were no sanatoria. Some physicians advised strenuous outdoor exercise, but climatic treatment was the most highly recommended

⁸ Reverend Joseph Ferrara, a Roman Catholic priest, who has served the Hazleton area for more than sixty years, founded both the Greater Hazleton Philharmonic Society (1942) and the Ferrwood Music Camp (1966).

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and few patients could afford to travel west. Little "public fear" of tuberculosis existed since it did not come in epidemics, and the disease was accepted as "the will of God"⁹.

In 1882 Dr. Robert Koch¹⁰, a German physician, identified the tubercle bacillus, which revolutionized both the medical and social history of the disease. His feat led to an understanding of tuberculosis as an infectious disease. Professionals and nonprofessionals alike came to agree that transmission of the bacillus could be controlled and a cure could be fashioned. This belief became the basis for a vigorous anti-tuberculosis crusade with two schools of thought. One group devoted itself to preventing new cases by eradicating contagion through preventative and educational measures¹¹; the other, based in a new type of facility called the sanatorium, was determined to implement a cure. City and state departments of health and voluntary societies were organized throughout the country to focus attention on methods of prevention, and sanatoria were established to provide treatment.

The sanatorium movement began in 1885, with Edward Trudeau's founding of the Adirondack Cottage Sanatorium at Saranac Lake, New York. The success of this center caused sanatorium construction to grow in the late 1890's. In 1904, there were 96

⁹ "The People's Plague On-Line" at
<http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/fammed/Koch/koch.dir/koch.html>.

¹⁰ Dr. Robert Koch (1843-1910) was a German general practitioner turned scientist. Robert Koch lived in Berlin, Germany in 1876. There he was the first person to isolate the anthrax bacillus and he was the first person to show that a specific organism was the cause of a disease. In 1882, he discovered the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the cause of the disease. "Science Heroes" at
[http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=robert koch](http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=robert%20koch).

¹¹ Examples of efforts by the "eradicating camp" in Pennsylvania include a statewide anti-spitting campaign launched by the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society in 1895 that culminated in the passage of an anti-spitting act by the state legislature in 1909. Another effort conducted under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Society was a Tuberculosis Exhibition that toured various cities throughout the state in 1907 and attended by over 154,000 persons. Price, Esther Gaskins. *Pennsylvania Pioneers Against Tuberculosis*. New York: National Tuberculosis Association, 1952.

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**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
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sanatoria or special hospitals for treating tuberculosis in the United States. By 1914, there were 550 sanatoria and 400 dispensaries (local clinics). These developments led to a 33% decline in the tuberculosis mortality rate from 1904 to 1919.

Pennsylvania, and more specifically Luzerne County, played a leading role in this evolving anti-tuberculosis crusade. The Free Hospital for Poor Consumptives was founded in Philadelphia in 1895. The White Haven Sanatorium opened in 1901, followed by Mont Alto (1907), Bon Air (1908), Cresson (1913), and Hamburg (1914). By 1921, the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society reported in its *Year Book* a compilation of tuberculosis sanatoria in Pennsylvania. It included three state sanatoria: Mont Alto, Cresson, and Hamburg; two city sanatoria: Philadelphia General Hospital and Pittsburgh City Home & Hospital; and twenty private institutions located around the state: four in Philadelphia, six at White Haven, Luzerne County, and nine elsewhere. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Tuberculosis Hospital Law in 1921, which authorized a referendum vote on establishing a tuberculosis hospital in a county after the submission of a petition with one hundred signatures. Seven counties, Delaware, Montgomery, Berks, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Cambria, and Beaver, voted at the general election in favor of erecting and maintaining tuberculosis hospitals.

Leaders of the tuberculosis crusade promoted a number of school related programs and alternative-treatment enterprises for children in the first two decades of the twentieth century, both nationwide and in Pennsylvania. Most often funded through the sale of Christmas Seals, both the school programs and treatment facilities focused on developing good health habits to build resistance to tuberculosis.

Perhaps the most extensive of the school related programs was the Modern Health Crusade. This nationwide program, sponsored by various anti-tuberculosis organizations, provided both curricula

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and co-curricular activities. By 1921, in sixty-six counties there were some 500,000 children in Pennsylvania's public and parochial schools enrolled in the crusade. In addition, nutrition and dental hygiene clinics were offered in schools supported and promoted by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education, Parent-Teacher Associations, the Red Cross, and numerous civic and women's clubs.

The same period saw the establishment of treatment facilities designed particularly for vulnerable children. They included "school camps", "fresh air camps", "open-air classes", and "preventoriums" for children considered at risk for the disease. As early as 1916, the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society reported the Harrisburg chapter was making "plans for a summer camp". By 1921, both the Philadelphia (Camp Happy) and Reading (Camp Joy) chapters of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society operated summer camps, and the society reported summer camps were being considered by various local organizations. At all these facilities, rest, heliotherapy, and good nutrition were provided. Health education, which included personal hygiene and tooth brushing, was also taught.

Through the 1920's and early 1930's summer or fresh air camps became increasingly popular throughout Pennsylvania with county governments providing assistance at the initial stages of development and county volunteer organizations in charge of operation on a yearly basis. In 1922, camps were opened at Hamburg (Berks County) and at Kunkle (Luzerne County). In 1923, a fresh air camp opened in Lackawanna County (Camp Sunshine) serving two groups of thirty-six children. Dauphin County's (Camp Kinkora) opened on a 142-acre farm near Middletown. In 1927, Luzerne County's camp moved to Butler Township to a facility financed by the county commissioners. That same year, a camp opened in Lycoming County (Camp Kiwanis). The following year camps opened in Indiana County (Camp Brookside), Westmoreland County (Treasure Health Camp), and at the state sanatoria at Mount Alto and Cresson. The heliotherapy treatments at Mount Alto and Cresson were noted by the *Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society* as "the largest of its kind in the United States and possibly the world". Delaware County opened a camp in 1929 at Stone Harbor, New Jersey. During the early 1930's,

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Cumberland County opened a camp (1931) at the Pine Grove Furnace and, finally, Clinton County started a camp in 1935 along Fishing Creek between Lock Haven and Bellefonte.

While the health programs provided for the children at the Pennsylvania camps were almost identical, camp facilities and the number of children served often varied.¹² Dauphin County's Camp Kinkora boasted an eighteen room, 40 x 50 foot, stone mansion with high ceilings, well ventilated rooms, abundant closet space, seven fireplaces, and spacious porches on a farm east of Highspire, southeast of Harrisburg, purchased by the county and the Tuberculosis Society of Harrisburg. The Indiana County Tuberculosis Society rented the Black Lick Valley Farm near Dilltown for its Camp Brookside. Cumberland County used the YWCA building, with its screened porches for sleeping, at Pine Grove Furnace. The Clinton County Tuberculosis Society constructed a 28 x 60 foot, two-story log building with a recreation hall in the center. The building included a one-story dormitory and dining wings on a site between Lock Haven and Bellefonte along Fishing Creek. The camp also included a swimming pool. Lackawanna County's Camp Sunshine included screened porches for sleeping. Finally, while specific details regarding Westmoreland County's Treasure-Health Camp buildings do not appear in the literature, a photograph published in the Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society in 1931 shows vernacular, wood frame buildings quite similar to those at the Luzerne County camp.

During this same era, voluntary agencies focused on measures to educate the public in methods of preventing the disease. Voluntary health associations, modeled on the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, founded in 1892 by Dr. Lawrence F. Flick formed during the progressive era.

¹² Descriptions of fresh air camps throughout Pennsylvania only appear sporadically in the Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society, and many are not described at all. The various Pennsylvania Fresh Air Camps served between 20 and 50 children in the 1920's. During the 1930's and 1940's, the camps generally increased their capacity to approximately 100 children each summer season. The numbers a comparable to the number of children served at the Luzerne County camp. See: *Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society*. Philadelphia: The Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society, September, 1923-1950.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA**

Section 8 Page 10

of the Charity Organization Society of the City of New York in 1902, the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in 1904, and numerous local societies, like the Wyoming Valley Tuberculosis Society founded by Dr. Charles H. Miner of Wilkes-Barre in 1906, provided a range of educational programs.

As tuberculosis declined over the course of the century, tuberculosis associations broadened their interests to encompass all pulmonary diseases. The Board of Directors of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis voted to expand the focus of the organization to include all lung diseases in 1956 and became the American Lung Association in 1973. With the change of focus, fresh air camps for children pre-disposed to tuberculosis ended.

The Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp is a resource associated with the national, state, and local crusade against tuberculosis waged in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. As such, the Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp warrants being placed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Health/Medicine, as a significant example of one approach to preventing tuberculosis in a historic movement in the area of Health/Medicine

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

Luzerne County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register:

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

X Other

Name of repository: **American Lung Association of PA, 6041 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: **17.8 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing

1: **18 416198E 4540468N**

2: **18 416290E 4540697N**

5: **18 416254E 4540133N**

See continuation sheet.

Zone Easting Northing

3: **18 416391E 4540245N**

4: **18 416356E 4540189N**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 9 Page 3

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Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society. 1928 Yearbook of the Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society, 1928.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 9 Page 4

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section 10 Page 1:

Verbal Boundary Description

Luzerne County, Butler Township (Drums) Tax Parcel Number: MAP Q7, Block
1, Lot 37

Boundary Justification

This parcel includes all the property historically associated with the
1927 Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp.

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

Luzerne County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name title: Robert A. Janosov, Consultant

organization: Luzerne County Office of Community Development

date: April 13, 2003

street & number: 425 Old Newport Street

telephone: 570-735-0328

city or town: Nanticoke

state: PA zip code: 18634

12. Additional Documentation

Maps

USGS quadrangle (7.5 minute series) Freeland Quadrangle

Other maps

Site Plans - Site Plan/Photo Locations; Dormitory Floor Plan/Photo Location; Dining Room/Kitchen Floor Plan/Photo Locations.

Photographs: see the Continuation Sheets labeled: Photographs, pp. 1-10.

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.):

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Luzerne County, PA

Section: Photographs

Page 1

The following information applies to all photographs:

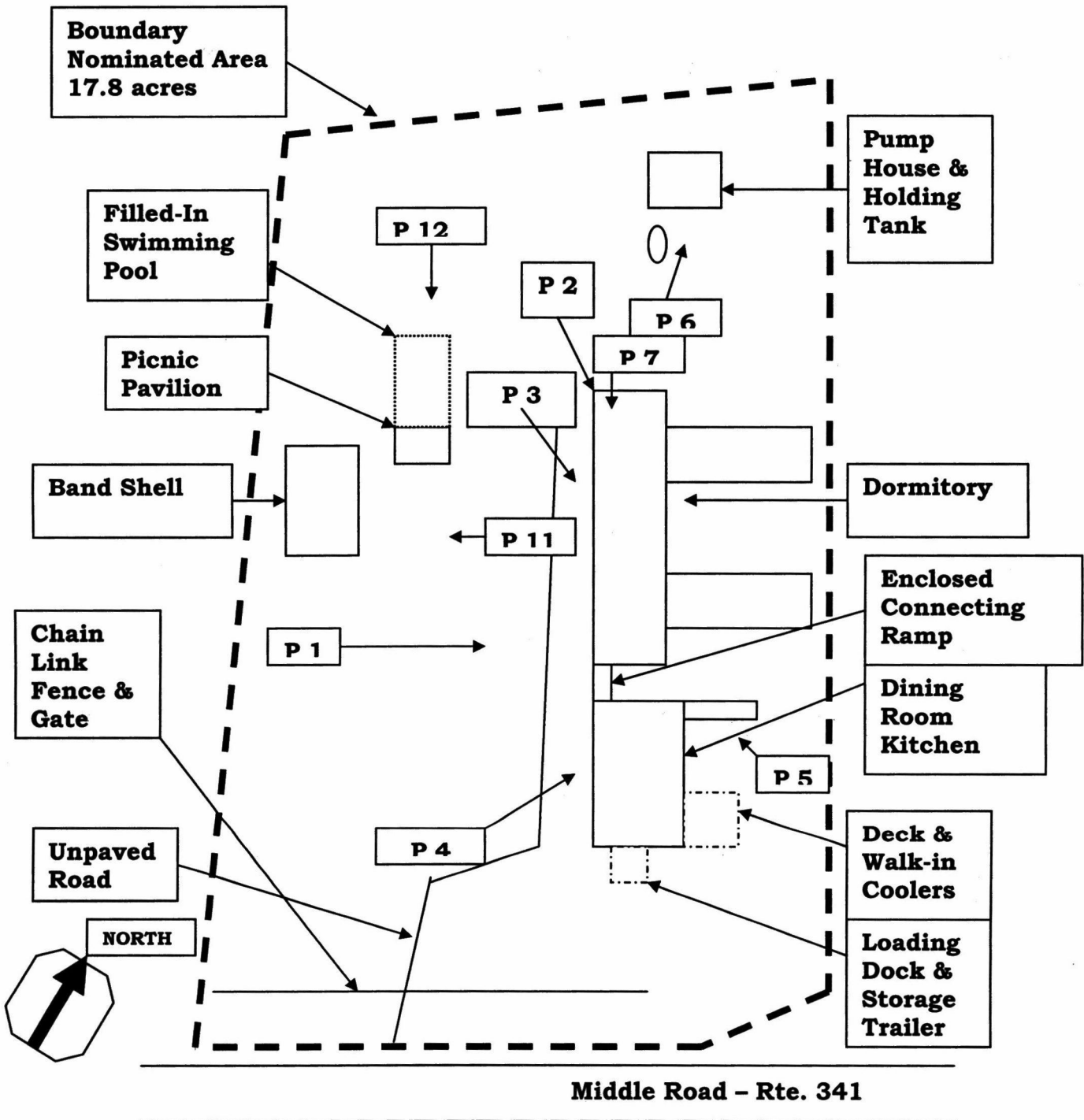
Photographer: Michael Thomas

Location of all negatives: Robert A. Janosov
425 Old Newport Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

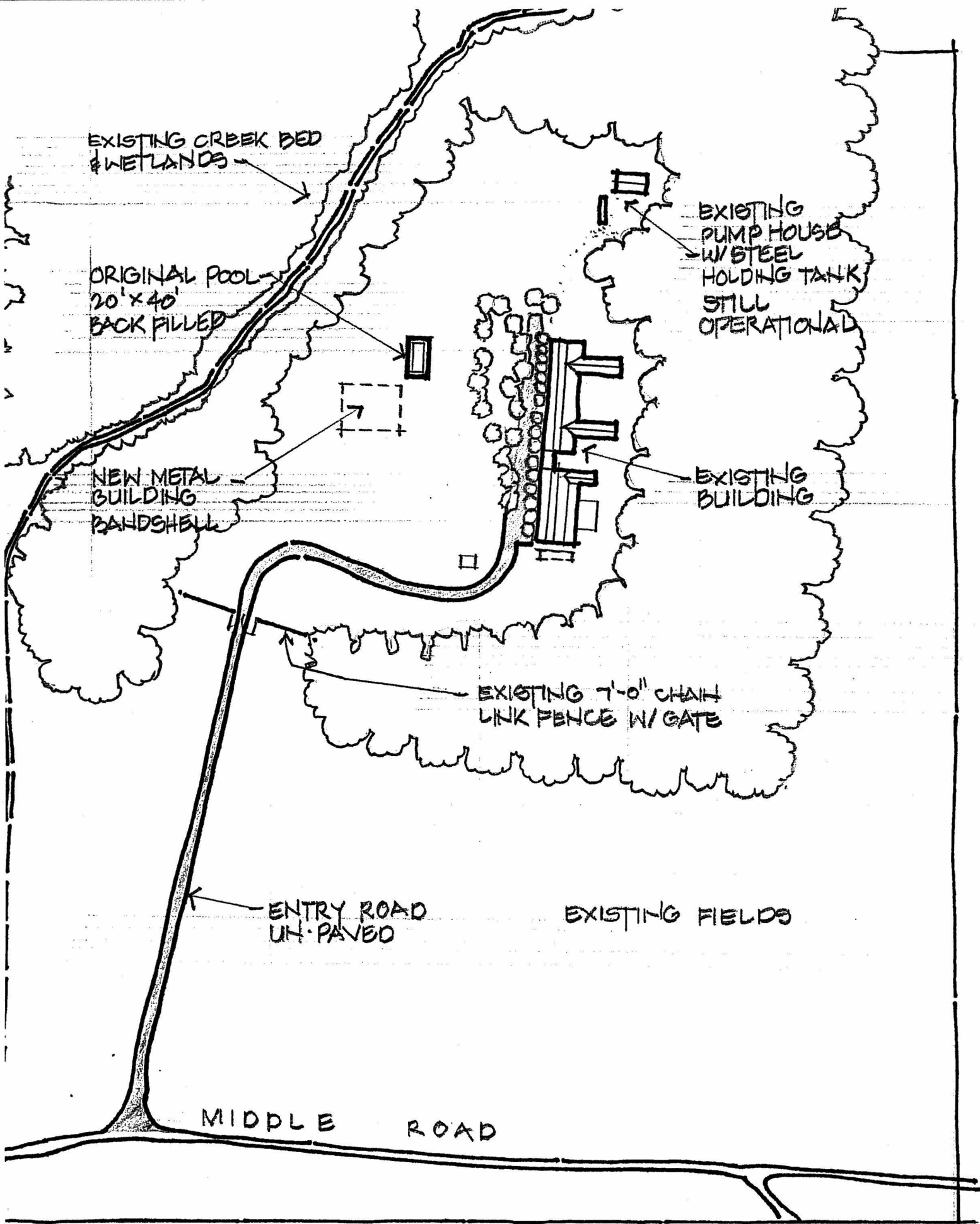
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2. Camp Dormitory Building Exterior-View from Northwest-9-25-01
3. Camp Dormitory Building Exterior-View from Northwest-9-25-01
4. Camp Dining Room/Kitchen Building Exterior-View from Southwest-9-25-01
5. Camp Dining Room/Kitchen Building Rear-View from Southeast-9-25-01
6. Camp Pump House/Holding Tank-View from South-9-25-01
7. Camp Dormitory Building Porch-View from North-9-25-01
8. Camp Dining Room Interior-View from South-9-25-01
9. Camp Kitchen Interior-View from North-9-25-01
10. Camp Dormitory South Wing Interior-View from West-9-25-01
11. Camp Band Shell and Picnic Pavilion-View from East-5-1-03
12. Camp Picnic Pavilion with Swimming Pool Impression-View from Northwest-5-1-03

**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township, Luzerne County, PA**

**Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Site Plan/Photo Locations**

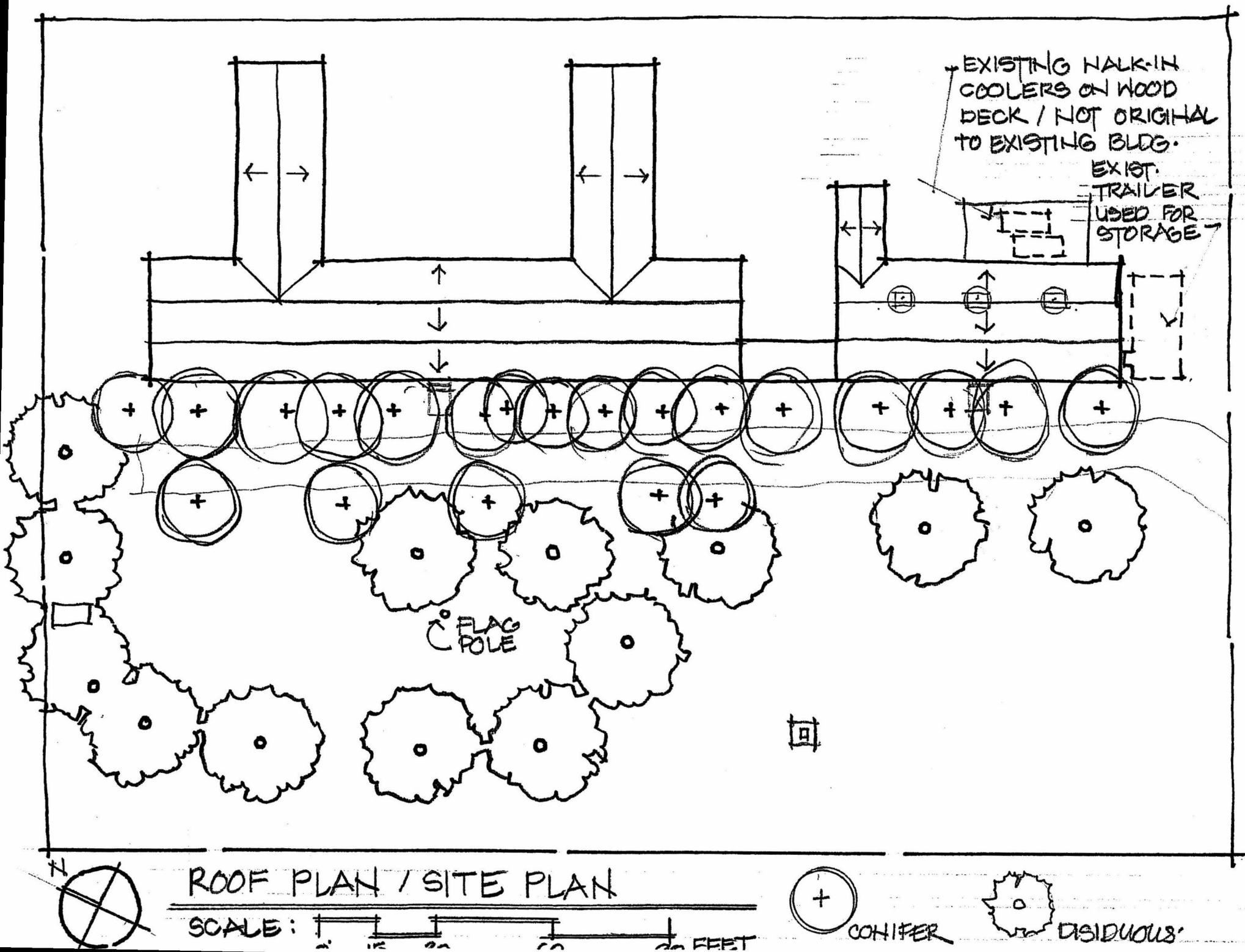


10/21/2003



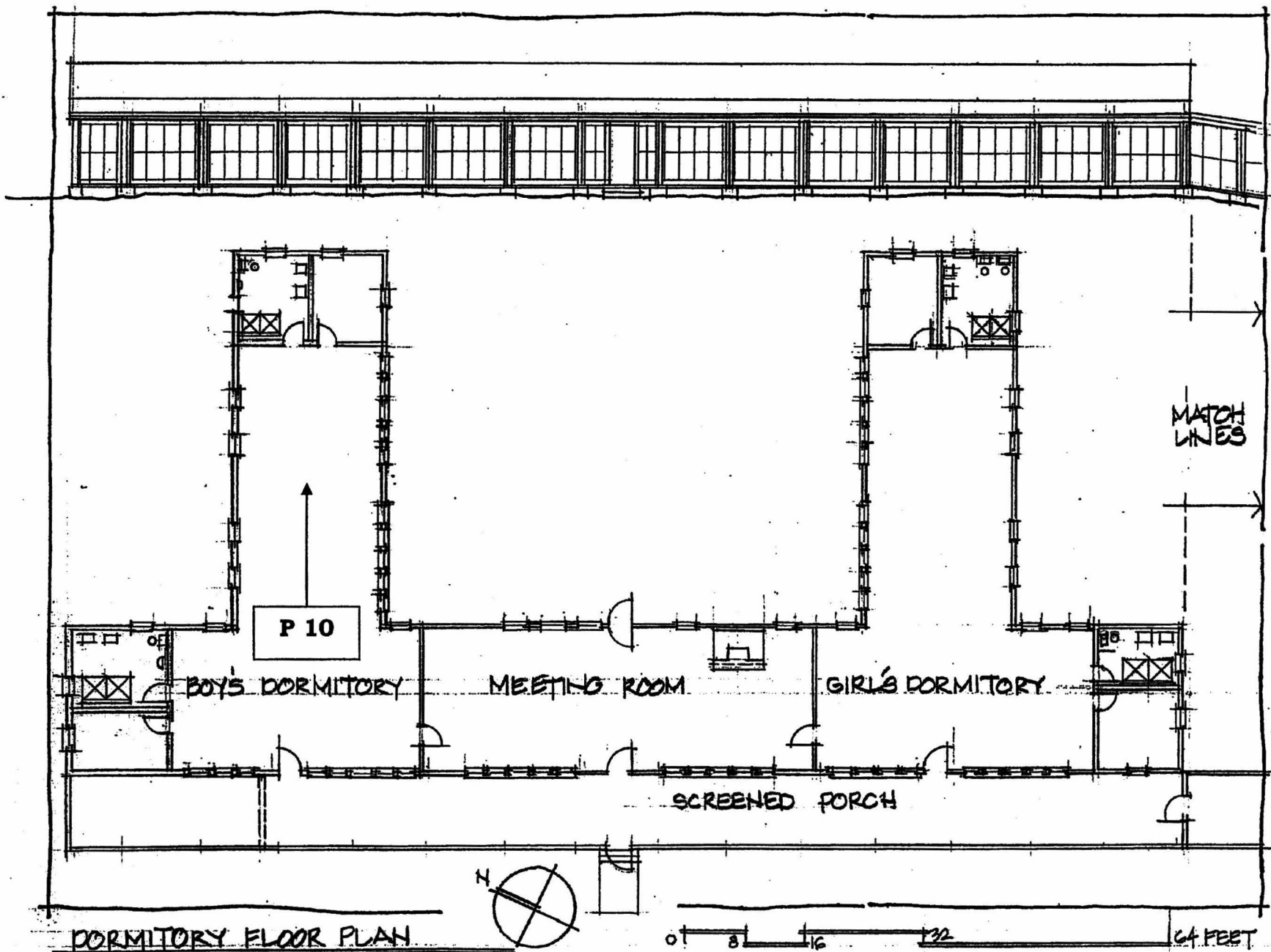
SITE PLAN 1

NOT TO SCALE



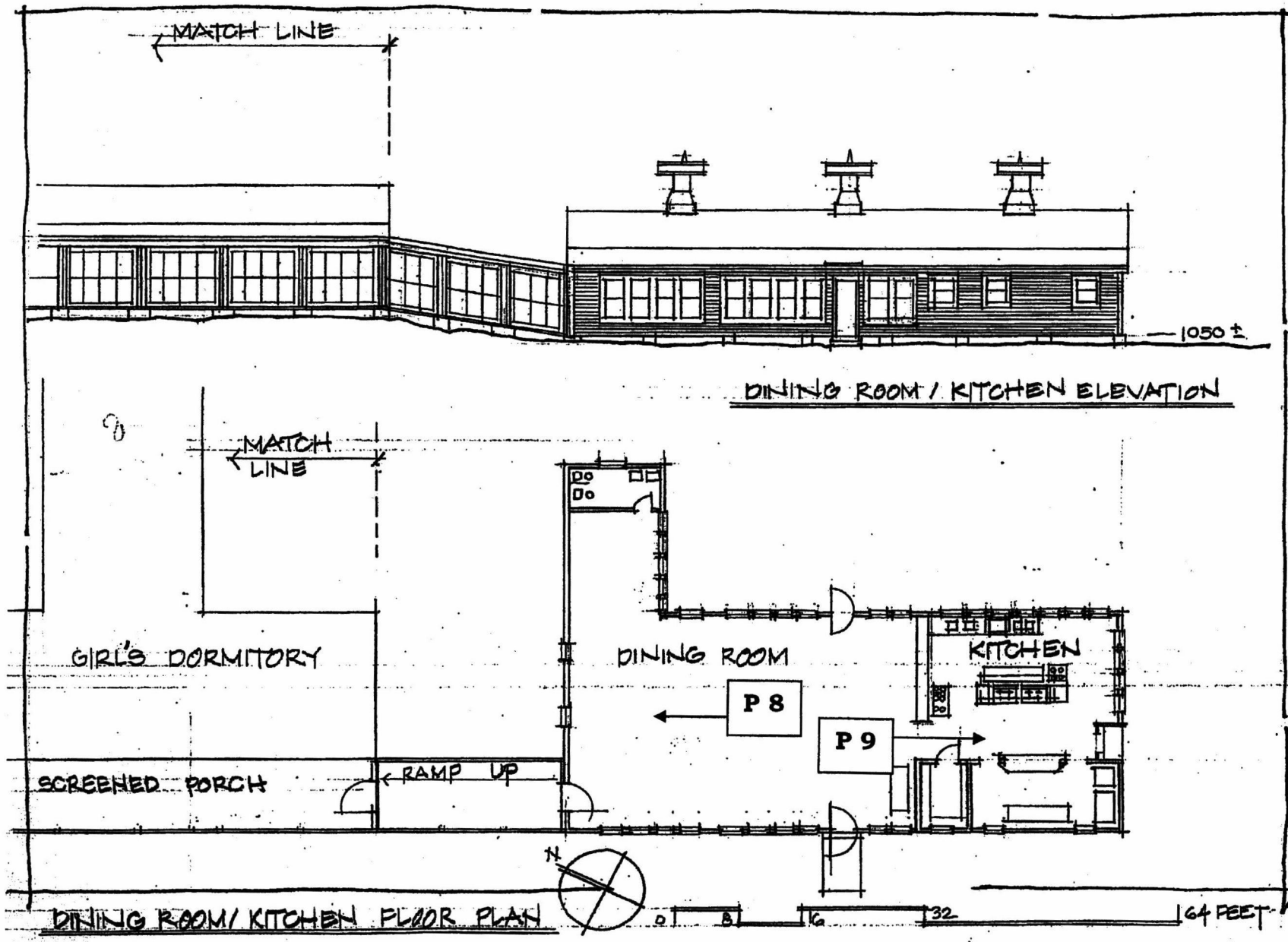
Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township, Luzerne County, PA

Dormitory Floor Plan/Photo Location



Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township, Luzerne County, PA

Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Dining Room/Kitchen Photo Locations



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Luzerne

DATE RECEIVED: 1/07/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/27/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/11/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000064

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/20/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

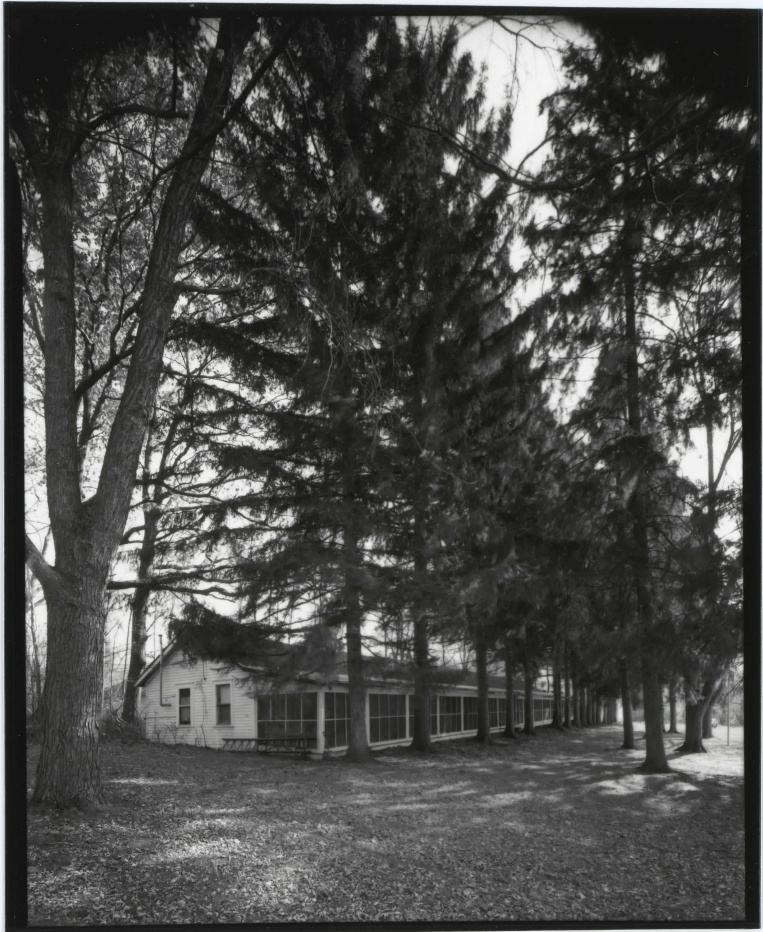
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



2. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



3. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



4. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



5. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



6. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



7. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



8. LUZERNE County FRESH AIR Camp
Butler Township
LUZERNE County, PA



9. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County, PA



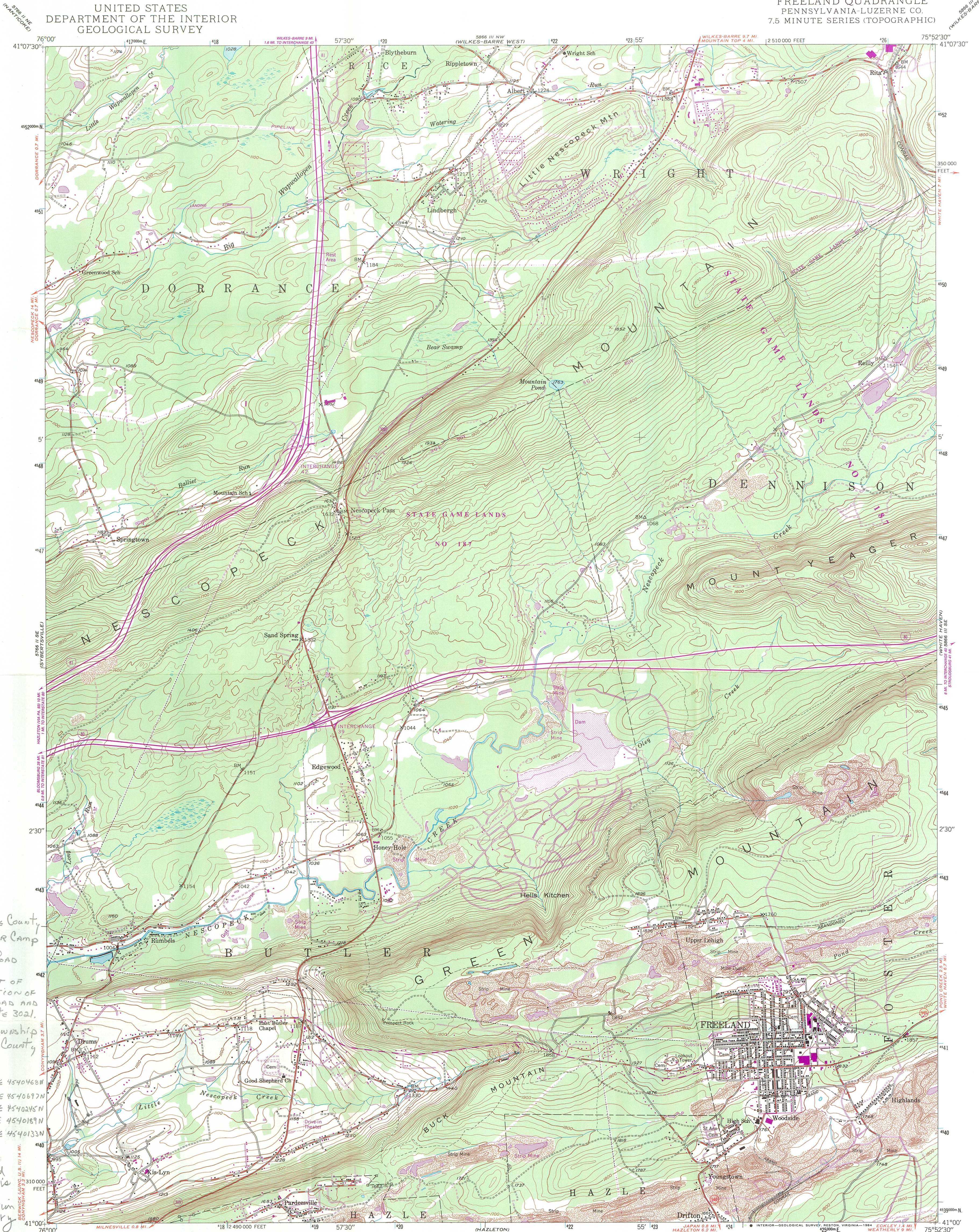
10. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County PA



11. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butter Township
Luzerne County, PA



12. Luzerne County Fresh Air Camp
Butler Township
Luzerne County. PA



LUZERNE County,
FRESH AIR Camp
Middle Road
.25 mile
NORTHEAST OF
INTERSECTION OF
MIDDLE ROAD AND
STATE ROUTE 3021.
Butler Township
LUZERNE County,
PA

1. 18 416198E 4540468N
2. 18 416290E 4540697N
3. 18 416391E 4540245N
4. 18 416356E 4540189N
5. 18 416254E 4540133N

Depicted
polygon is
the nomination
boundary

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Pennsylvania
Department of Highways

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1942. Field checked 1948

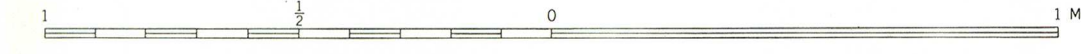
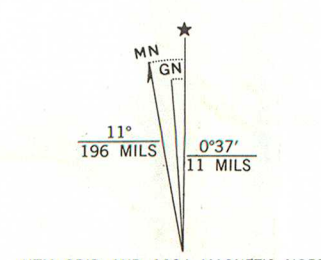
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Pennsylvania
coordinate system, north zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
30 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

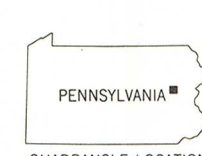
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs
taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1984



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

FREELAND, PA.

41075-A8-TF-024

1948
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5866 III SW-SERIES 9831