

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUL 2 1986
date entered

1. Name

historic South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Cottage Road, Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Michael
(Adams Twp) N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Cambria code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cambria County Courthouse

street & number South Center Street

city, town Ebensburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cambria County Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date 1979-1980 federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The proposed South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District is a linear arrangement of thirteen lots along nearly 1,700 feet on the north side of Main Street and Cottage Road in the Village of Saint Michael in Adams Township. The district is bordered to the north by steep wooded hillside and some mining company housing constructed around 1912 and to the south by additional company housing built around 1920. Nine of the fifteen buildings in the 5.6 acre district were built around 1883 and at that time served members of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, eight as lake front cottages and one as a lake front clubhouse. Four of these buildings are significant and four are contributing to the district. The three non-club related structures are all considered intrusions in the district as is one heavily altered club cottage. The club era structures vary from fair to excellent in both general repair and in their integrity to their original Victorian style and design. The properties are primarily residential with the exception of the original clubhouse which is currently used as a combination hotel/tavern.

Although it is now difficult to imagine, the proposed district was, in the 1880's, situated along the southern shore of a 500-acre reservoir known at the time as Lake Conemaugh or the South Fork Reservoir. All nine of the club related structures in the district were built around 1883, about four years after the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club was incorporated and six years before the South Fork Reservoir collapsed resulting in the world renowned Johnstown Flood. The Johnstown Flood Memorial which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, can be found at the remains of the breastwork of the reservoir about one-half mile northwest of the proposed district.

Architecturally, the buildings which are significant or contributing are varied in design and size. Although all are wooden framed structures, their architectural styles represent several of the major Victorian sub-types including Queen Anne, Stick Style, and Gothic. The Knox and Moorhead cottages, the best surviving of the cottages, are excellent examples of these sub-types not only in the district but anywhere in the region. These two cottages, along with the other three significant structures in the district, are all represented by individual resource cards in the Cambria County Historic Site Survey.

The names of the architects and builders of the structures are not known but all of the buildings share some common characteristics. It is obvious that the cottages, as well as the clubhouse, were built to maximize the vista of the lake since open front porches exist on all the structures and second story bays are common to most of the cottages. With few exceptions the cottages are two stories high and contain at least 10 rooms, some having as many as 17 rooms. All of the structures were initially clapboard sided although several have been covered over by insulbrick, asbestos shingle, or aluminum siding. Most of the structures have gable roofs and all are built on cut stone foundations. All of the buildings also have double hung windows.

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The clubhouse serves as the focal point of the district as it did in the 1880's. It is the largest of the structures remaining from the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club although its eastern wing has been removed leaving approximately 60% of the original building intact. During the days of the club, the clubhouse contained 47 furnished bedrooms, eating facilities for 150 persons, a gaming room, and a social hall within its three story wooden frame. Twelve bays of the original structure remain and although it is in some need of repair, the building remains strongly consistent with its original design. The clubhouse is also unique in that unlike the cottages which have maintained uninterrupted use as residential structures, the use of the clubhouse has changed several times. Shortly after the flood, around 1900, the building was used as a sanitarium. It is believed that the renovations to the clubhouse for this use included the removal of the eastern wing. The building is now used as a combination hotel/tavern.

Six of the club cottages are east of the clubhouse and two are to the west. Lot sizes vary from 8,640 square feet to almost 20,000 square feet and each structure is set back on its lot from ten to forty feet. Old photographs suggest that at least part of the current front yard space was occupied during the club era by a boardwalk which separated the cottages from Lake Conemaugh and provided the cottages' owners with access to the clubhouse. The front yards are currently grass covered and planted with some small shrubbery.

Only one of the remaining club cottages has been altered to the extent that it must be considered an intrusion in the district. This cottage is flanked by another intrusion on each side, a modular home built in 1983, and a United Methodist Church constructed in 1938. The only other intrusion in the district is a one-story brick residence built around 1972. Although these buildings intrude on the sense of time of the district, they do so no more than the company housing which, for the most part, surrounds the district. The intrusions are, without exception, in excellent repair reflecting pride in ownership common to all the property owners in the proposed district.

The individual buildings of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club remain, for the most part, true to their original designs but time has brought a number of changes to the district. Interestingly, the biggest change is also the factor which is most important to the district as an historic district, namely the elimination of the South Fork Reservoir after the dam broke in 1889. Only with some old pictures and a sense of romantic imagination can one now see the district as it once existed. David G. McCullough, noted historian and author of The Johnstown Flood described the proposed district as follows:

"By 1889 sixteen cottages had been built along the lake, as well as boathouses and stables. The cottages were set out in an orderly line among the trees, not very far apart, and only a short way back from the water. They looked far too substantial

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really to be called "cottages". Nearly every one of them was three stories tall, with high ceilings, long windows, a deep porch downstairs, and, often as not, another little porch or two upstairs tucked under sharp-peaked roofs. . . . string hammocks swung under the trees. Young women in long white dresses, their faces shaded under big summer hats, strolled the boardwalks in twos and threes, or on the arms of very proper-looking young men in dark suits and derbies. Cottages were noisy with big families, and on moonlight nights there were boating parties on the lake and the sound of singing banjos across the black water".¹

The following is an inventory of the buildings in the proposed South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District. Detailed architectural information is presented for those structures retaining most of their historical/architectural integrity. Unless noted otherwise, all structures were built in the early 1880's, prior to 1883.

(1) Structure #104 (Tax Parcel 01-32-104) CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

This is a Stick-Style house. The side with the commodious first floor side porch appears to be largely unmodified, excepting for the insertion of the garage below the porch and the slight extension forward of the porch.

The street front appears to have been dominated historically by a two tier porch design. Only the three bay second floor porch remains. The first floor porch probably continued the side porch and was as wide as the house. Now it has all been enclosed. Even the expressed post system, so important to Stick Style buildings, has disappeared behind clapboard.

Stick-Style houses grew out of the desire for "truthfulness" in wooden construction. They emphasized the fact that vertical loads are carried on posts. The fact that these elements on the street front are now visually obliterated violates that stylistic tradition. Stick Style tradition was also violated by the use of a modern sliding sash. Originally the house had characteristic deep shadows, such as one sees on the side of the house and the second floor porch. The very flat street front of the first floor addition is a further violation of the building's historic character.

Finally, the house has been painted white, which is rare for a house of this period. Of course, paint color research could determine what the original colors were and they could be restored.

¹David G. McCullough, The Johnstown Flood (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1968), pp. 42-43.

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(2) Structure #105 (Tax Parcel 01-32-105) SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE

This house is obviously the work of a self-assured and professional architect. A very vigorous house, it could be called Queen Anne in style. The irregular plan, the massing, and the predominance of steep pitch "A" roofs set in juxtaposition to the polygonal turret roof are quite common in this style.

Also characteristic of this style are the deep shadows formed by the various planes and the projecting porches and windows with small panes in their upper sash, contrasted with single panes in their lower sash.

H. H. Richardson did some of his most important work in Pittsburgh. Subject house was built for a Pittsburgher. While the house's walls are not shingled, as were so many of Richardson's, it has features reminiscent of Richardson's Stoughton and Channing houses. Although not of the quality of these houses, it was by an architect who was influenced by him.

(3) Structure #106 (Tax Parcel 01-32-106) SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE

This house is eclectic in style. It combines features frequently found in Queen Anne and Tudor Revival houses. Its steep roofs, asymmetric balance, corner brackets supporting the roofs, and its "half timbering" would all fall within those categories. However, the building does not have the heavily sculptured facades so usual with Queen Anne houses. Designed by someone with a sensitive hand, it is interesting for its use of textures, including German novelty siding, shiplap, vertical shiplap, horizontal treillage and diagonal treillage, in addition to "half timbering" and shoji screen textures.

Its very simple wrap-around porch must have been particularly desirable for viewing the lake created by the South Fork Dam.

Excepting for paint colors, this house appears to be unchanged on its exterior.

(4) Structure #107 (Tax Parcel 01-32-107) INTRUSION

This one-story modular dwelling was constructed in 1982 on the site of the J.H. Lippincott Cottage which was razed in 1980.

(5) Structure #108 (Tax Parcel 01-32-108) INTRUSION

This house is a heavily altered two-story cottage barely suggesting its history and architecture. The house is covered by a recent treatment of stucco and siding over insulbrick over clapboard and has thus undergone several

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changes in style. With the exception of its location, nothing original remains which would remind one of its former role as a second home for the wealthy. Photographic evidence shows that this cottage was originally covered with horizontal wooden siding and had a porch with steps to the boardwalk and steps on the western side of the porch.

(6) Structure #109 (Tax Parcel 01-32-109) INTRUSION

This is one-story cut-stone faced United Methodist Church which was constructed on the site of a former cottage in the year 1938. The structure is well-maintained; however, the land use and architecture does not complement the district's historical perspective.

(7) Structure #110 (Tax Parcel 01-32-110) CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

While this house seems to have been drastically altered, it shows signs of having a Stick-Style building. The shingles and siding appear to be post World War II. The porch columns are very thin and are devoid of the type of brackets one would expect on the building of this style. However, the considerable projection of the gable roofs beyond the walls, together with the little bit of Stick-Style ornament at the top, all bespeak of the building's probable Stick-Style architectural past.

In its current condition, the house has lost most of its architectural integrity. However, it does not actually detract from the district, as do the intrusions.

(8) Structure #111 (Tax Parcel 01-32-111) CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

This building is a charming one and half story cottage. It could be called Eastlake in style, although it has been altered. Certainly the porch columns and brackets would fit into that period. The open balustrade, which probably existed on the porch, has been replaced by a parapet with siding. The lattice which probably existed under the porch has been replaced with brickwork. The wooden steps which led up to the porch have been replaced with masonry.

Finally, it should be noted that at least some of the shutters, which obviously are an afterthought, have been applied to windows where they could not fit, if they were made operational. Also, the diminutive carriage lanterns which flank the entrance would never have been there during the historic period.

The structure is one of the best maintained in the district. While alterations have compromised some of the historical and architectural

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integrity of this cottage, they have not been as extreme as those carried out on Structure #108. Therefore, this cottage, which is the smallest of the remaining, generally contributes to the district.

(9) Structure #112.2 (Tax Parcel 01-32-112.2) INTRUSION

This residence was constructed in 1972 and serves as an intrusion within the district. The house is a single floor brick-faced structure with an attached garage. The house, while detracting from the historical and architectural quality of the district, appears to be well maintained by the occupants.

(10) Structure #112 (Tax Parcel 01-32-112) SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE

The Club House is a large three story building. It is definitely eclectic. With one wing lost, today the building has an "L" Plan. The eastern wing was removed in the early 1900's.

To give the somewhat box-like building interest, the very many windows are grouped in twos and threes. Also, at one corner, the first floor projects at 45° from the main box. The huge wrap-around porch which encompasses this also extends 45° from the main structure. To add further interest, a pent eave was built between the second and third floor windows. Historically covered with contrasting wood shingles, today it is roofed with asphalt shingles providing little interest. This is also true of the main roof. That roof's rafter ends are also exposed, creating rhythmical shadows.

There are treillage valances between the columns in a few places. Elsewhere these appear to have been replaced by contemporary, slightly arched ones, formed by alternating vertical boards and voids.

The most interesting architectural features of the building seem to be on the inside. There are two massive fireplaces, very well detailed, and somewhat in the manner of Frank Furness, the noted Philadelphia architect of the period. They embody highly stylized terra cotta floral ornament, treated in a very bold manner, combined with ornamental brickwork.

The main stairway is massive and robust. The adjoining paneling is also handled in a very vigorous manner. Of course, the main importance of the building is the fact that it was the center of activity of the entire club membership.

Photographic evidence and artistic depiction reveals the eastern wing of the Clubhouse to more resemble a house than the remains of the Clubhouse. This evidence shows the eastern wing to be two stories with a gabled roof and suggests that the eastern wing may have predated the three-story remains.

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(11) Structure #113 (Tax Parcel 01-32-113) CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

This house has been altered over the years. In spite of its 1/1 sash, were its walls covered with wood shingles, it could easily be described as a Shingle Style structure. With its half-hipped roof on the front and gables on the sides, this essentially simple "A"-framed low-slope roof house would easily fit into that category. Here, however, the front of the house is covered with synthetic clapboard and the sides are covered with asphaltic simulated brick. These are recent additions.

The front end of the building has a porch going entirely across it. This is above a garage. Originally, the building stood directly on a rubble stone foundation, but now there is a band of concrete block between the exposed rubble stone and the superstructure. This indicates that the entire building was pushed further out of the ground in order to gain enough headroom for the garage below. It changes the appearance of the house, making it much more vertical than it was originally. It also greatly extends the length of the steps which go up to the porch, since that porch is now much further out of the ground. Those steps are flanked by contemporary brick piers and a modern steel railing which also encompasses the porch itself. On the street front, the area under the porch is now enclosed.

Probably, when the house was originally built, there was an opening below the porch which was enclosed by lattice and there was a wooden railing.

(12) Structure #419 (Tax Parcel 01-32-419) SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE

This is one of the best houses of the group. With its steep hipped roof intersected by two large gables it is an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture. It uses a variety of textures and asymmetrical elevations. It is almost pure Queen Anne on the outside with the exception of the contemporary shutters, which have been misapplied. Were they made operational, some of them would not fully close the window openings. Also, they are taller than the windows they are supposed to fit.

However, the basic house with its decorative horizontal shiplap, contrasted with shingling on the walls makes for a very interesting and superior composition. The broad front porch certainly fits in well with the house's original purpose, to overlook the lake which the dam formed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1879–1889 **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District is a significant collection of buildings reflecting the recreational pursuits of prominent Pittsburgh businessmen. These business leaders established the club in 1879 as part of their efforts to find leisure activities outside the city. They erected "cottages" and a clubhouse in the historic district and created an artificial lake so they could go hunting, fishing, boating and horseback riding in the Allegheny Mountains. They pursued activities and privacy at these facilities that they could not find at other summer resorts in the Alleghenies. This elite club lasted only ten years until consequences of the Johnstown flood caused its end. Although the organization died with the victims of the flood, club members left behind a locally distinguished collection of buildings.

The formation of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club was an outgrowth of efforts by Pittsburgh's leading businessmen to find summer recreation outside the city. Working class tastes dominated art, music, theater, sports and other leisure activities in the city up to the late 1870s. The city's elite were disinclined to participate in the ribald, often violent culture of Pittsburgh's workers. Instead, they turned outside the city for their recreation. Pittsburgh's wealthy looked to summer resorts located at mineral springs in the Allegheny Mountains as one source of recreation. These resorts offered the healthful benefits of mineral water and clean, cool mountain air as well as escape from the debauchery of Pittsburgh's working class culture.

Wealthy Pittsburgh families went to several mineral springs resorts by the late 1870s, including Frankfort Springs in Beaver County, Bedford Springs and Chalybeate Springs in Bedford County, and the mineral springs at Cresson in Cambria County. Some families stayed at hotels in these resorts. Prominent Pittsburgh businessmen also erected large, ornate houses as their "cottages" at these resorts. About 1880, Andrew Carnegie built his principal American residence at the resort in Cresson. Such Pittsburgh leaders as Carnegie were joined at these resorts by wealthy and politically prominent people from throughout the United States. Presidents and Congressmen as well as Pittsburgh's wealthy journeyed to Bedford Springs. Members of the Alfred and William K. Vanderbilt families and the Jay Gould family stayed at Chalybeate Springs. Some of the hotels and "cottages" where other families stayed still stand at these resorts. The hotels and "cottages" at Bedford Springs and Chalybeate Springs were placed on the National Register in 1984 and 1985 respectively.

Most of the wealthy Pittsburgh families who journeyed to these mineral springs apparently found these resorts to their liking. However, by the late 1870s a small, select group of Pittsburgh's business leaders sought other recreation outside the city that could not be found in these resorts. For instance, Pittsburgh's elite pursued boating as part of their summer leisure. Boating had become fashionable among wealthy families by the late 1870s. Pittsburgh's business leaders also found fishing attractive. Fishing was becoming a gentlemen's sport complete with a wide array of expensive equipment by the late 1870s. In addition, the creme de la creme of Pittsburgh society wanted an exclusive, private resort of their own where the public, including wealthy from other cities, would not be allowed to stay without permission. The mineral spring resorts in the Allegheny Mountains were public facilities visited by wealthy people from around the nation. These resorts also did not offer fishing and boating. In order to secure their desired recreational activities, Pittsburgh's wealthiest businessmen planned a different resort in the Allegheny Mountains.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.6 acres

Quadrangle name Geistown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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4	4	6	6	9	9	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard F. Truscello, Principal Planner
Fred Denk, Research Asst. / William Sisson

organization Cambria County Planning Comm./PHMC date May, 1986

street & number Court House Annex/State Museum telephone (814) 472-5440; ext. 325
(717) 783-8946

city or town Ebensburg/Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/22/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 7-31-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Pittsburgh's elite created the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club as its exclusive resort in the mountains. Fourteen of the wealthiest businessmen in the city, including Henry Clay Fricke, incorporated the club in 1879. These founding members ensured that the club would remain highly exclusive. They limited membership to 100 members and their families. Each family had to pay a \$800 membership fee. Each family was required to stay at most two weeks per year in the clubhouse, or was encouraged to build a cottage on the club's property. The club eventually had a total of 68 very wealthy families as members. Along with Fricke, these members included such Pittsburgh iron and steel magnates as Andrew Carnegie, Henry Phipps and John G.A. Leishman. Andrew Mellon, who was Pittsburgh's leading banker, was also a club member. James Chambers and H. Sellers McKee operated what they claimed was the world's largest window-glass works. Durbin Horne and C.B. Shea ran Pittsburgh's leading department store. Robert Pitcairn directed the western division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Other leaders of Pittsburgh's banks, businesses and industries were also members of the club. Only these members were allowed to use club facilities. Non-members were allowed on club property only with the permission of the club. Indeed, the club was so exclusive and private that it threatened to shoot local residents who came onto club property to fish.

The club chose as its property seventy acres next to the South Fork Creek in Adams Township, Cambria County. This property served the club's purposes well. It was located within a fairly short distance of the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Johnstown so that members could travel easily from Pittsburgh to the club. At the same time the property was situated high in the Allegheny Mountains away from the working class culture of Pittsburgh. It was also located on one of the best trout streams in the state. In addition, the property had a dam across the creek that had been completed in 1852 to provide water for the Western Division of the state's "Main Line" Canal. The dam had been breached during a heavy rainstorm in 1862 and then abandoned, but the club filled the breach and created an artificial lake almost three miles long. The club then stocked this lake, known as Lake Conemaugh or the South Fork Reservoir, with black bass to provide its own private fishing presence. The club also bought a flotilla of fifty canoes and rowboats, four sailboats and two steam yachts so members could go boating. Next to the lake, the club constructed boathouses, stables and a clubhouse with forty-seven rooms and a dining hall that seated 150 people. Member families built an additional fifteen to twenty "cottages," some of which contained as many as seventeen rooms. Most cottages were erected near the lake shore and had porches commanding scenic views.

The day-to-day activities of club members were shrouded in scenery. Members tried to preserve their privacy during and after the club's existence. Yet, judging from a few surviving pictures, narrative accounts and the remaining buildings, members relaxed in a setting of genteel leisure. Men dressed in flannel shirts and crush hats went fishing on the lake. Men and women went horseback riding, hiking or boating. The club also sponsored an annual regatta and shooting events for its members.

This genteel setting came to a sudden end in late May, 1889. On May 30 and 31 an unprecedented eight to ten inches of rain deluged the Adams Township area. The storm caused Lake Conemaugh to rise rapidly toward the top of the dam. The dam had no discharge pipes to release the mounting pressure of water. The dam had a spillway, but the club had partially blocked the spillway with a fish guard designed to keep the stocked fish in the lake. Thus the spillway could not drain the water as rapidly as it rose. By the afternoon of May 31, water began seeping through the earlier breach that had been inadequately filled by the club. About 3:15 pm, the dam gave way, sending millions of tons of water cascading down the narrow, winding Conemaugh Valley to Johnstown.

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date entered

The flood left a long path of devastation in its wake. Small towns above Johnstown as well as much of Johnstown were swept away. More than 2,200 lives were lost. Although the flood did not touch the buildings of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, the club members never gathered in the buildings again. The club was eager to avoid any responsibility for the disaster and it quickly passed out of existence. The few members who had been at the club during the flood quickly retreated to Pittsburgh.

Their retreat to Pittsburgh was part of a larger trend in which the city's elite increasingly focused on Pittsburgh as their center of cultural and leisure activities. Faced with mounting labor protest in Pittsburgh by the 1890s, particularly with the Homestead strike in 1892, the elite came to view workers as dangerous and violent. During the 1890s, they asserted their own more refined cultural life in Pittsburgh. In 1895 the Carnegie complex of music hall, library, museum and art institute was erected. The Duquesne and Pittsburgh Clubs, both founded in the 1870s by small groups of business magnates, blossomed by the 1890s into crucial organizers of elite culture in the city. These clubs staged elaborate balls and cotillions for the city's first families. Schenley Park, with its golf course run by a private club, was also created to facilitate elite culture. This park brought to Pittsburgh a taste of the pastoral setting that the elite had left behind on the South Fork Creek.

The elite who had left the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club also left behind examples of Queen Anne architecture that are outstanding in the local area. Structure #105, a Queen Anne house in the historic district, is by far the best example of its style in Adams Township and neighboring Croyle and Summerhill Townships. Its large mass, intricate detailing and juxtaposition of porches, gables and turret are far more sophisticated than the plain and rudimentary designs of the few other Queen Anne houses located in these townships. Although structure #113 is smaller and less ornately embellished than structure #105, its Queen Anne appearance also compares quite favorably with the few other Queen Anne houses located in the three townships. For instance structure #113 has a step roof, large gables, front porch and massing that are quite similar to another prominent Queen Anne home on LR 11021 in Croyle Township.

The Queen Anne "cottages" in the historic district also compare favorably with the "cottages" built in the nearby resort area of Cresson. Three Queen Anne houses still stand in Cresson, including Andrew Carnegie's residence. These three dwellings have gables, turrets, porches and detailed ornamentation that are similar to the design of structure #105 in the historic district. However, two of the three buildings in Cresson have been substantially altered. Large additions were made to Carnegie's residence, and a large turret was salvaged from a resort hotel and added to one of the other two Queen Anne dwellings in Cresson.

Thus the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club historic district stands out for its locally significant architecture. It is also important as the hunting and fishing club of the creme de la creme of Pittsburgh society. A select group of Pittsburgh's business leaders erected this club to pursue private leisure activities they could not find elsewhere in western Pennsylvania.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District
Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

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date entered

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSouth Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District
Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number

10

Page 2

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received

date entered

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the southwest side of Main Street and the northwest side of Market Street (the eastern corner of Cambria County tax parcel 01-32-419, 62 Main Street, Saint Michael, Pennsylvania); thence across Market Street, a distance of 34 feet to the northern corner of parcel 01-32-113; thence in a southeasterly direction along the southwest boundary of Main Street (being the northeast boundary of parcels 01-32-113, 01-32-112.1, 01-32-112, and 01-32-112.2) a distance of 560 feet to the eastern corner of parcel 01-32-112.2; thence across Franklin Street, a distance of 40 feet to the northern corner of parcel 01-32-111; thence in a southeasterly direction along the southwest boundary of Main Street (being the northeast boundary of parcels 01-32-111, 01-32-110, and part of the northwest boundary of parcel 01-32-109) a distance of 415 feet; thence continuing in a southeasterly direction an additional 27 feet along the northeast boundary of parcel 01-32-109 to the northern corner of parcel 01-32-108; thence continuing in a southeasterly direction along the northeast boundary of parcels 01-32-108, 01-32-107, 01-32-106, 01-32-105, and 01-32-104 a distance of 571 feet to the eastern corner of parcel 01-32-104; thence in a southwesterly direction a distance of 163 feet along the southeastern boundary of parcel 01-32-104 to the southern corner of that parcel; thence in a northwesterly direction along the southwest boundary (rear) of parcels 01-32-104, 01-32-105, 01-32-106, 01-32-107, 01-32-108, 01-32-109, 01-32-110, and 01-32-111, a distance of 1,012 feet to the western corner of parcel 01-32-111; thence across Franklin Street, a distance of 40 feet to the southern corner of parcel 01-32-112.2; thence continuing in a northwesterly direction along the southwest boundaries (rear) of parcels 01-32-112.2, 01-32-112, 01-32-112.1, and 01-32-113, a distance of 540 feet to the western corner of parcel 01-32-113; thence across Market Street, a distance of 34 feet to the southern corner of parcel 01-32-419; thence in a northwesterly direction along the southwest boundary (rear) of parcel 01-32-419, a distance of 40 feet to the western corner of parcel 01-32-419; thence in a northeasterly direction along the northwest boundary of parcel 01-32-419, a distance of 142 feet to the northern corner of parcel 01-32-419; thence in a southeasterly direction along the northeastern boundary of parcel 01-32-419 (the southwestern side of Main Street) a distance of 60 feet to the point of beginning.

This boundary encompassing all of Cambria County Tax Assessment parcels 01-32-104, 01-32-105, 01-32-106, 01-32-107, 01-32-108, 01-32-109, 01-32-110, 01-32-111, 01-32-112, 01-32-112.1, 01-32-112.2, 01-32-113 and 01-32-419 and including eight remaining cottages and the clubhouse of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District

Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 3

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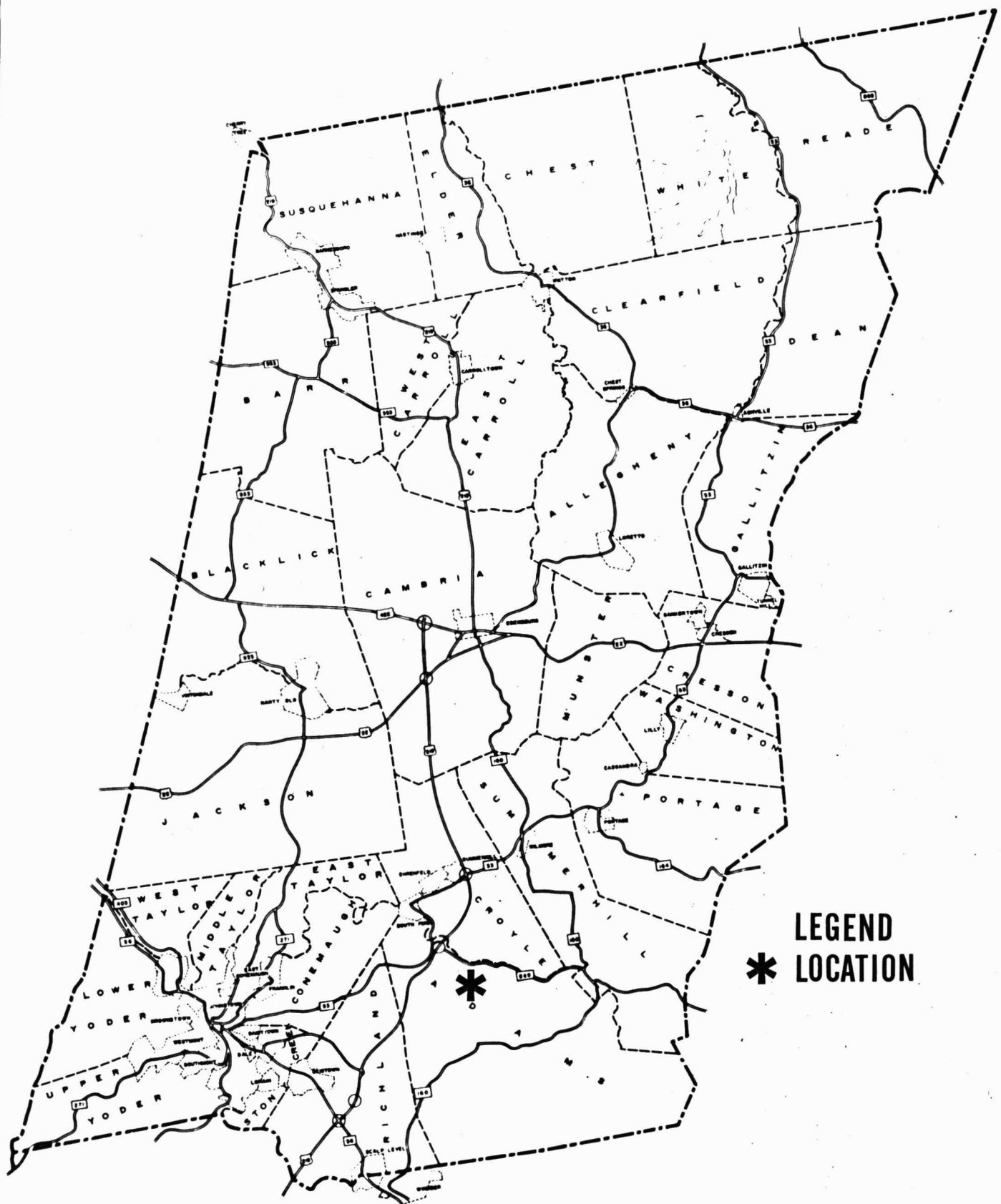
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date entered

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The delineation of the proposed district is an attempt to realistically isolate the historical extent of the former South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, as discerned in the present extent of the properties. Obviously, the lake was the major topographical feature binding and defining the district. Even though the lake is gone, the determination of former frontage is easier than the determination of the width and depth of the former club due to topographical, land use, and property line factors. In other sections of this document it is noted that perhaps as many as twenty cottages existed at the time of the flood. The exact configuration and location of all the cottages are not known, since no plot plan is available and since most activities of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club were well-guarded secrets. Many authors and researchers on this topic have commented on the lack of reliable data, photographs, and general written information about the club.

Deed searches also are quite difficult given the web of transactions prior to and after the flood, followed by sheriff sales and later transactions. Thus, the one practical way of justifying the boundaries of the district is the use of observation and the limited written information available. The structures themselves provide such evidence, as well as a map prepared by the Wilmore Coal Company in its conveyance of property to the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company. This data suggests that the district, as located on Map 2, is a justified representation of former Club property. The Wilmore Map (See Map 3) shows a structure situated on parcel 01-32-103, to the left of the proposed district, presumably a cottage. However, only a derelict Boy Scout Camp exists there now, thus, this parcel is not included. Nothing is known of the style of the former structure or the date it was demolished. In essence, only that district bordered by the documented original structures 104 and 419 is proposed. Care has been taken to utilize as boundaries the closest edge of the street, since curbs do not exist. The streetscape photographs further define the district.



CAMBRIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

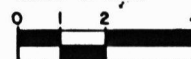
South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District

HISTORIC DISTRICT—GENERAL LOCATION

THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED, ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF PLANNING, PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

MARCH 1986

SCALE IN MILES



MAP NO.

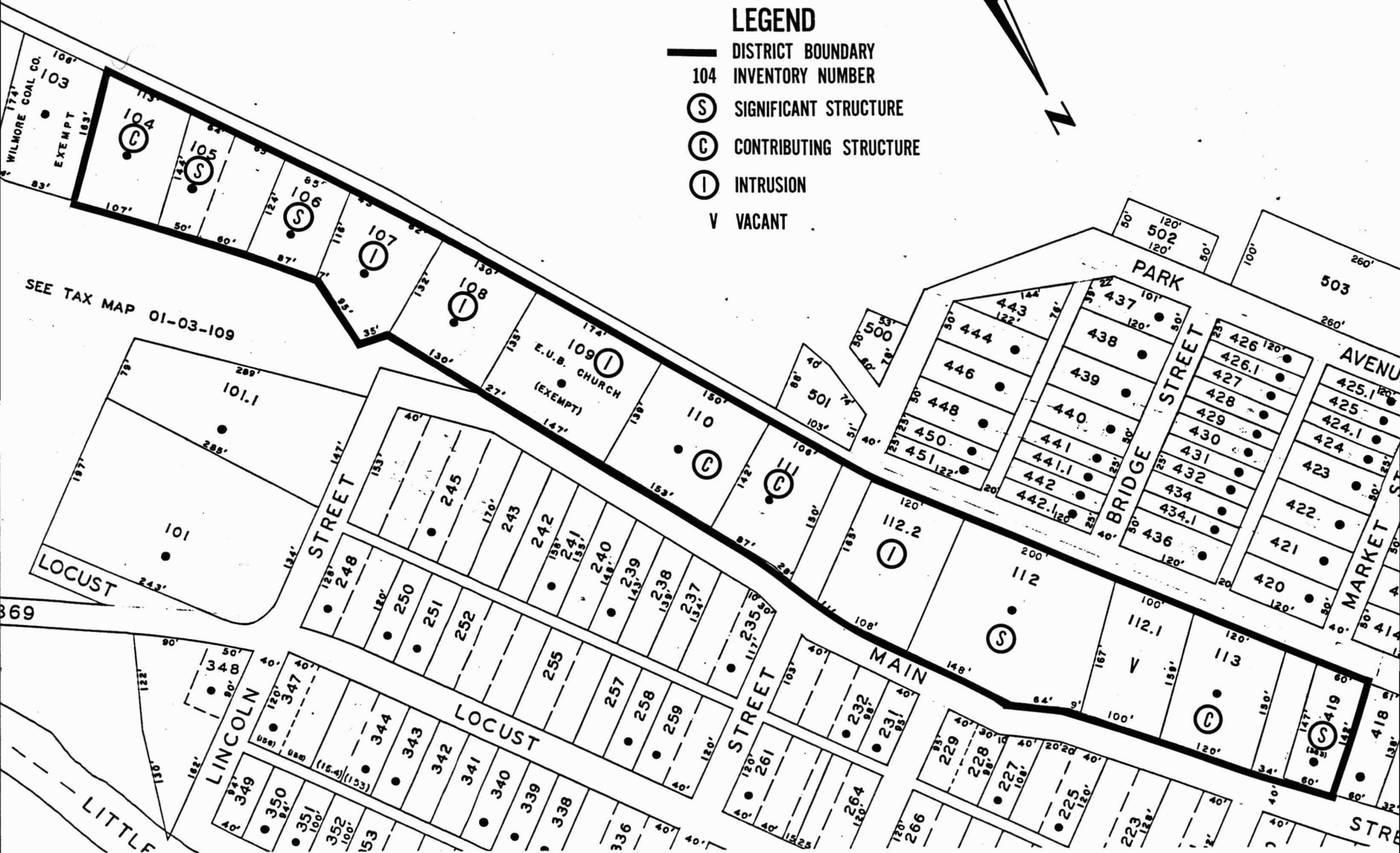
1

SOUTH FORK FISHING AND HUNTING CLUB HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP 2

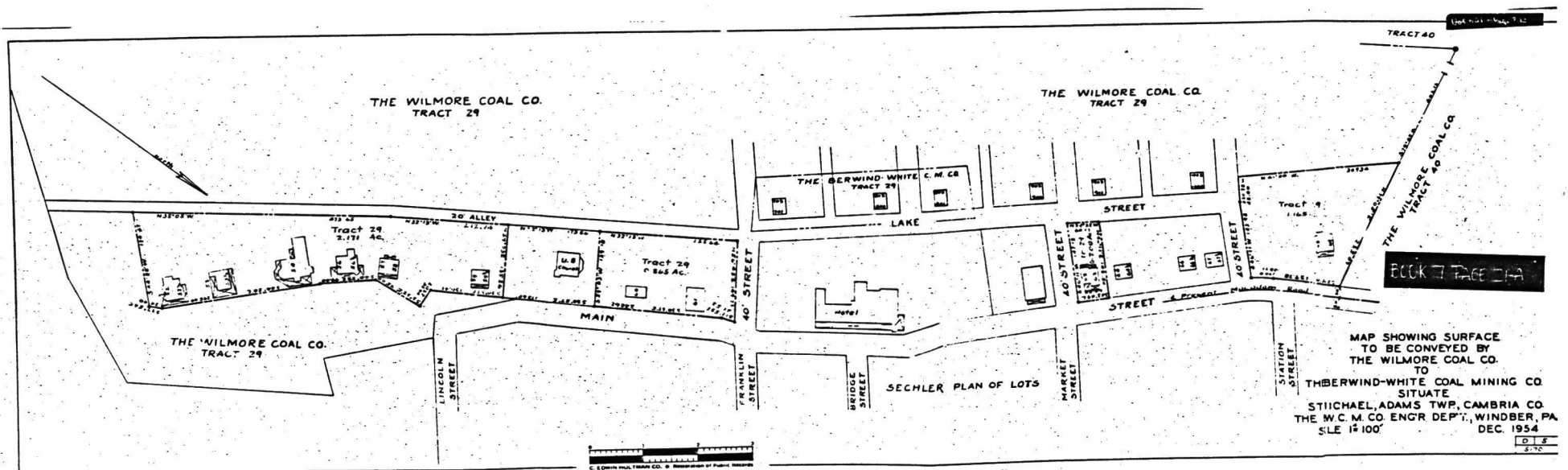
Cambria County

LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 104 INVENTORY NUMBER
- (S) SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE
- (C) CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
- (I) INTRUSION
- V VACANT



MAP 3



SOUTH FORK FISHING AND HUNTING CLUB HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP 4

Cambria County

LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 104 INVENTORY NUMBER
- ① PHOTO LOCATION / DIRECTION



86002091

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Youth Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic
District
Cambria County
PENNSYLVANIA

Working No. JUL 2 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 7/31/86 - 8/16/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-31-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the National Register
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



SFF&EC Cottage

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#1



SFF&HC Cottage (Moorhead Cottage)

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#2



SFF&HC Cottage (Moorhead Cottage)

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of rear and eastern
side

#3



SFF&HC Cottage (Knox Cottage)

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#4



SFF&HC Cottage

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#5



SFF&HC Cottage

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and eastern
side

#6



SFF&HC Cottage

Cambria County

PD: 1935 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#7



SFF&HC Clubhouse

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of porch, front, and
western side

#8



SFF&HC Clubhouse

Cambria County

PD: Unknown (early-Twentieth Century)

PD: Unknown

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Old photograph similar to #8 showing
porch, front, and western side;
included for historical perspective

#9



SFF&HC Cottage

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#10



SFF&HC Cottage
Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Exterior view of front and western
side

#11



SFF&HC Streetscape
Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east
emphasizing the Knox and Moorhead
Cottages

#12



SFF&HC Streetscape
Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking west from
the vicinity where photo #12 was
taken; noting the change in elevation

#13



SFF&HC Streetscape

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east
emphasizing a recently built intrusion
contrasting with period structures

#14



SFF&HC Streetscape

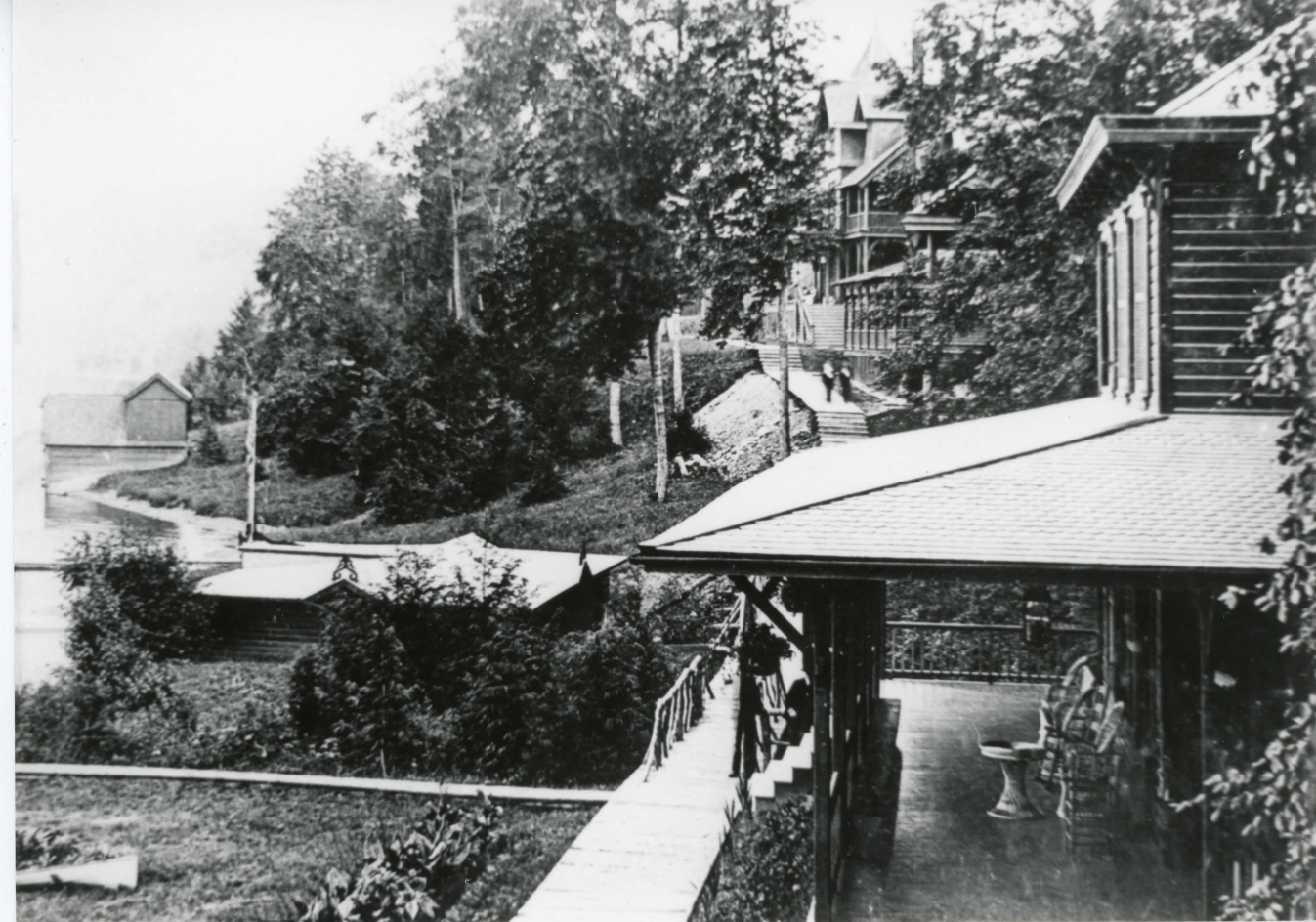
Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east
focused on an altered cottage with
the Knox and Moorhead Cottages in the
background

#15



SFF&HC Streetscape

Cambria County

PD: 1880-89 period PC: Unknown

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east taken
near the location of photo #15, showing
original detail of a now altered cottage,
the boardwalk and the Knox and Moorhead
cottages. This photograph is included for
historical perspective and is one of the
very few photographs of Club property
taken during this historical era.

#16



SFF&HC Streetscape
Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east with
the Eastlake style cottage in the
foreground

#17



SFF&HC Streetscape

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east taken
from the western boundary of the
district with the Clubhouse in the
background.

#18



SFF&HC Streetscape

Cambria County

PD: 1985 PC: F. Denk

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

PV: Streetscape view looking east taken
from the western boundary of the
district emphasizing the sides of two
cottages and the Clubhouse.

#19



SFF&MC Area

Cambria County

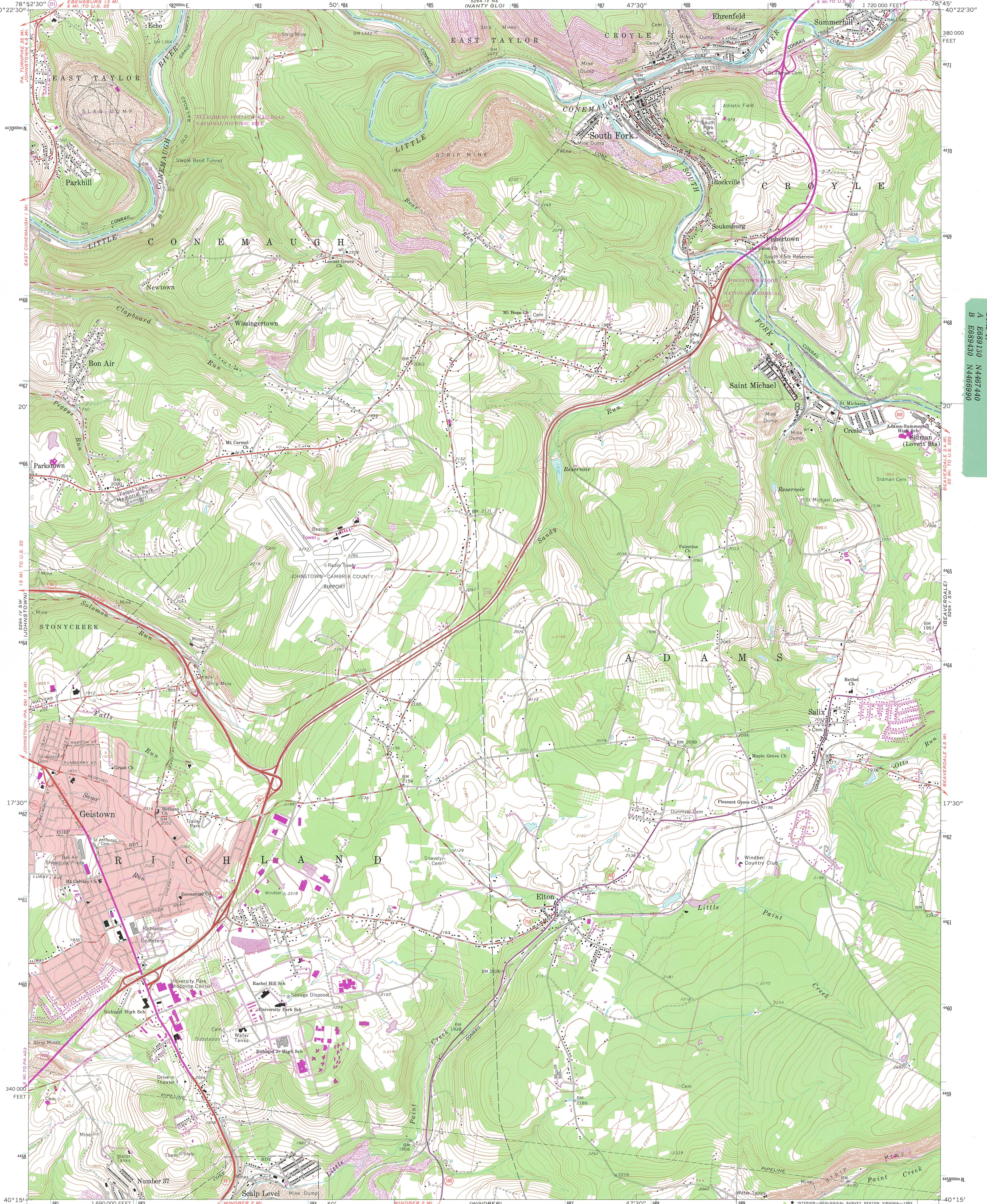
PD: Unknown (likely 1970's)

PC: Unknown (CCPC files)

NL: Cambria County Planning Commission

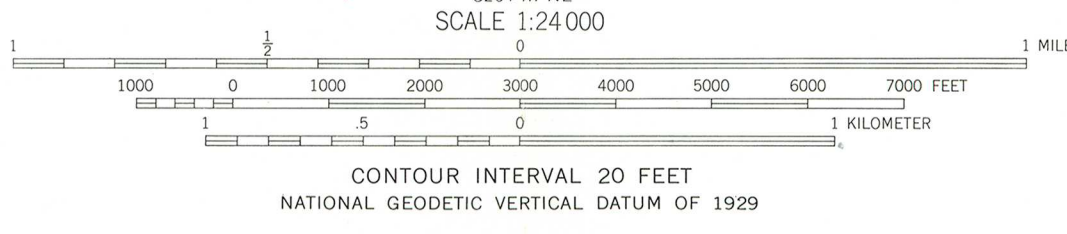
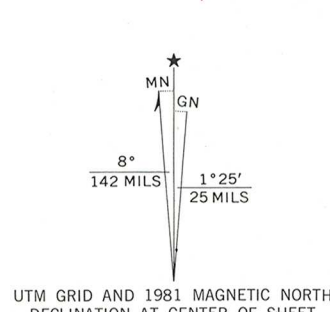
PV: Aerial photograph of proposed district
(highlighted) in relation to subse-
quent development.

#20



South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club
Historic District
Cambria County
Geistown Quadrangle
Zone 17
A 6589130 N4467440
B 6589430 N4466990

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
21 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

GEISTOWN, PA.
N4015—W7845/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5264 IV SE-SERIES 7.5

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial
photographs taken 1977 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1981



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
BOX 1026
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17108-1026

June 25, 1986

National Register of Historic Places
US Dept. of Interior
Carol Shull, Chief of Registration
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: NR Nomination Forms

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination forms are being
submitted/resubmitted for your review and response:

South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historic District
Cambria County

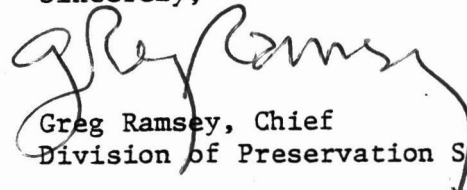
The proposed action is:

XXX listing in the National Register

 determination of eligibility (owner objection)

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please
call us at (717) 783-8947.

Sincerely,


Greg Ramsey, Chief
Division of Preservation Services

GR:sk

JUL 2 1986

JUL 2 1986

Delores, should this be a waiver.
log in

Control:

6/26/86

South Fork Hunting & Fishing Club
Cambria Co. PA

State request for expedited review (as much as possible)
(not indicated on transmittal letter).

much
Congressional interest (Cong. Berta ?)

State mailed it 6-25-86

BS.