

The Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) identifies critical areas of plant and animal habitat and also includes inherently unique natural features (Map 8). Potential threats and suggestions for protection of the critical habitat areas are provided in the NAI. Additional information about individual species is available from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) formerly known as Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI). This comprehensive database of outstanding natural habitats and sensitive plant and animal species is carefully monitored as rare plants and animals are sometimes subject to unauthorized collection and are consequently not identified in the text of the NAIs.

Natural areas are grouped into two categories by TNC: sites of statewide significance and sites of local significance. These sites are identified for the protection of biological diversity and contain exemplary natural communities and documented habitats of species of special concern. Sites of statewide significance have been given a county rank of 1 to 5 depending on their significance; those with a county rank of 1 or 2 are considered “top priority.” In addition to sites of statewide significance, a number of sites of local significance have been identified. Sites of local significance are unique areas chosen because of size, diversity of wildlife and plant life, water quality protection, and recreational potential. The NAI identified 17 sites of local significance in the Lehigh Valley. The LVPC strongly suggests the consideration of TNC identified natural areas in all park, recreation and open space plans.

Natural Resources Plan

The Natural Resources Plan (Map 9) was developed as part of the *Comprehensive Plan The Lehigh Valley ... 2030* (Comprehensive Plan). Eleven different natural resource elements were used to produce the Natural Resources Plan: floodplains, hydric soils, the Blue Mountain natural area, NAI, river resource areas, steep slopes, water quality, wetlands, woodlands, interior woodlands and riparian woodlands. The eleven elements were weighted and layered using a Geographic Information System mapping program. The calculations resulted in a range of values with the higher numbers indicating where the greatest combination of natural resources occurs in the Lehigh Valley. Three conservation priority levels were created within the range of values:

- Very High — areas that should be given first consideration for public and private conservation acquisition programs.
- High — areas that should also be considered for acquisition, especially if they are part of a larger natural feature identified as very high conservation priority. In some cases, such as floodplains and steep slopes, high priority areas might be adequately protected through municipal zoning.
- Medium — areas that should be protected through zoning regulations, conservation subdivision design and conservation farming practices. Many of these areas may include small stands of woodland, drainage swales or poorly drained soils that are either part of local farm operations or are part of larger residential lots.

Cultural, Historical and Scenic Resources

Cultural, historical and scenic resources offer a wide variety of activities and attractions for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors of the Lehigh Valley. These resources are found at the centers of our cities and in the rural countryside. Ranging from a visit to an art museum to a drive through a covered bridge

to attending a music festival to a fun day at a science center, there is something for everyone, young and old alike. The cultural resources offer a glimpse of who we are today, while the historical resources offer a glimpse of who we were in the past, and the scenic resources make the Lehigh Valley unique. Many of these activities are intentionally located within one of our greenway hubs, are identified as a greenway node, or are adjacent to a greenway corridor.

Cultural Resources

The Lehigh Valley has a wide range of cultural organizations and venues for residents and visitors to enjoy, including museums, universities, the arts (music, theater and dance), a science center, and a wine trail. In addition to these year-round attractions, annual festivals (e.g., Musikfest) draw thousands of residents and tourists to the Lehigh Valley.

Several different types of museums are located in the two counties—art, Native American, and company-sponsored museums. The art museums (e.g., Allentown Art Museum, Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts in the City of Bethlehem) attract thousands of people each year to view a variety of fine and decorative art objects. The Museum of Indian Culture in the City of Allentown helps to educate visitors about the Northeastern Woodland Indians and other Native American tribes. Additionally, several local companies whose products are used worldwide sponsor museums throughout the Lehigh Valley (e.g., Allen Organ Company, The Crayola Factory, Mack Trucks Inc., and Martin Guitar Company). Visitors may see how the products are made and learn the background and history of the company.

Theater, music and dance venues and organizations exist throughout the Lehigh Valley (e.g., the State Theater Center for the Arts in the City of Easton, Civic Theater of Allentown, Pennsylvania Playhouse). Some of these art centers are associated with local colleges and universities, such as Baker Center for the Arts (Muhlenberg University), Zoellner Arts Center (Lehigh University) and The Labuda Center for the Performing Arts (DeSales University). The Baum School of Art in the City of Allentown and The Banana Factory in the City of Bethlehem both offer art instruction in addition to art galleries that are open to the public. The Allentown Symphony Orchestra, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and the Pennsylvania Youth Theater in Bethlehem, along with several other organizations, offer many opportunities for experiencing the arts in the Lehigh Valley.

Other types of activities that residents and visitors can enjoy that are found across the Lehigh Valley include the Lehigh Valley Wine Trail which allows visitors to experience nine family-owned wineries and taste award winning wines. The Da Vinci Science Center in the City of Allentown provides hands-on opportunities for children to learn about science and have fun at the same time.



Musikfest

John Lunger, Arts Quest

Historical Resources

Lehigh and Northampton counties have a wealth of historical resources (e.g., buildings, structures and canals) that are found throughout the region. These resources add to the beauty and attractiveness of the region, increase understanding and appreciation of our heritage, and improve the quality of life. Many significant historical features are of value to the local economy because they are tourist attractions.

The LVPC published a report in 1963 titled *History of the Lehigh Valley Region*, which focused on important events and persons and not the identification of historic sites and structures. In 1970, the LVPC completed a report titled *Historic Structures and Sites*. The report contains an inventory of the most important historic structures, buildings and sites that had been identified as of 1970. The report also includes general policy recommendations and recommendations for specific historic buildings and structures. Most of the recommendations of the report have been accomplished, thanks to public and private efforts.



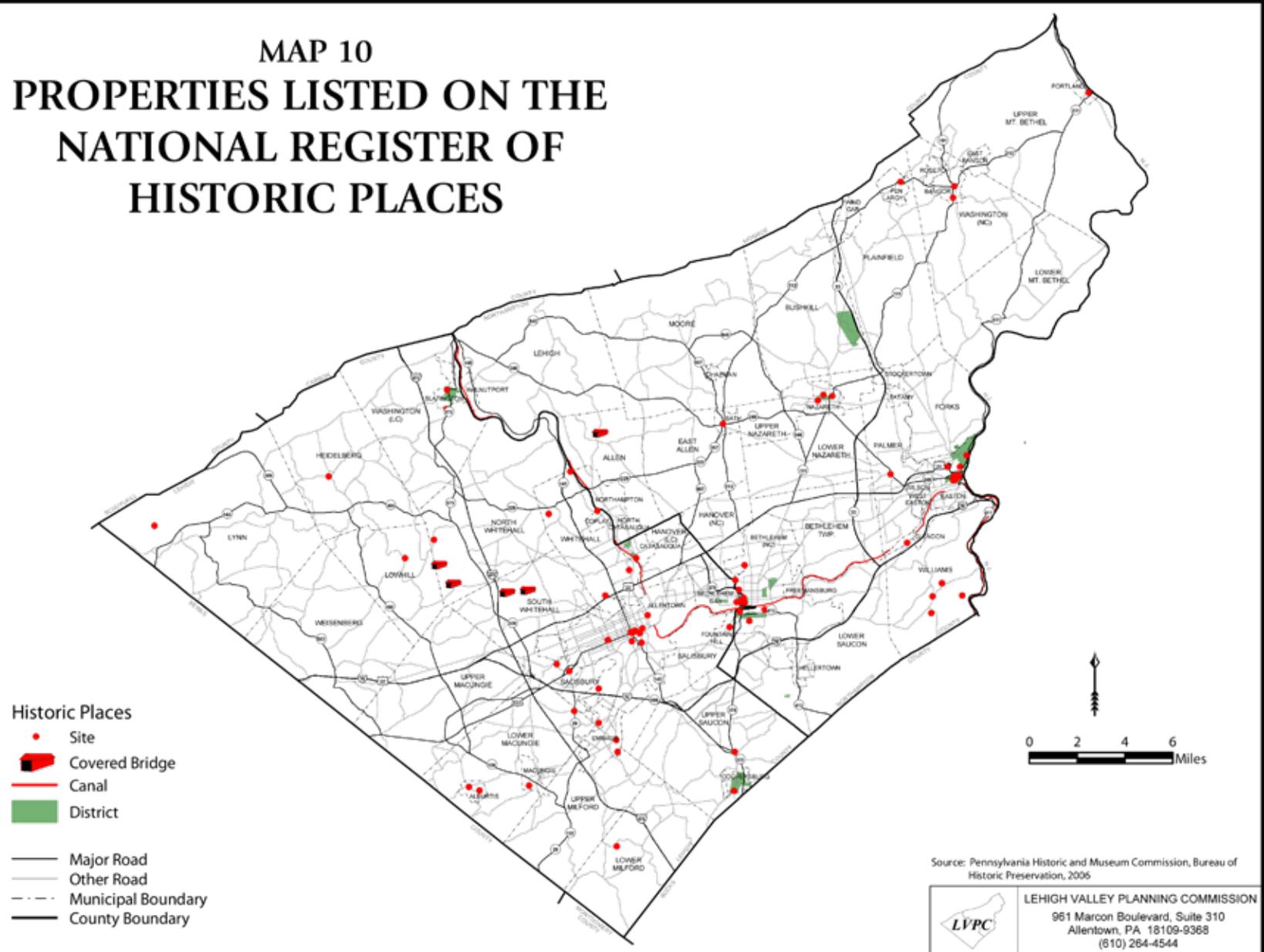
There have been several major efforts since 1970 to identify and survey the remaining historical resources in Lehigh and Northampton counties. Some communities prepared thorough history studies for the 1976 bicentennial celebration. Another important effort in the 1970s involved a major study of the Lehigh Canal by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service titled *Lehigh Canal — an HCRS Project Report*. A few municipalities have conducted



comprehensive historical resources surveys funded with state grants. Communities that took advantage of this grant program include Catasauqua Borough, Coopersburg Borough and Forks Township. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has money available for funding comprehensive historical resources surveys. No Lehigh Valley municipalities have applied for the grants for a number of years.



MAP 10 PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of historical and cultural resources worthy of preservation in the United States and is administered by the National Park Service. The NRHP is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historical and archeological resources. Places listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

The Lehigh Valley has many important historical resources listed on the NRHP (Map 10) as of May 2006, 50 in Lehigh County and 46 in Northampton County. Many more historical resources have been recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as eligible for NRHP listing, 127 in Lehigh County and 109 in Northampton County. Before any of these properties can be listed on the NRHP, application forms are required to be completed and submitted for review.



Lockridge Furnace Complex — Borough of Alburtis

Many development projects now require an analysis of historical resources before they can proceed. Under state and federal law, state and federal agencies must consider the effects of their actions on all historic and prehistoric features eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The federal legal mandates include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Executive Order 11593 and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. State legal mandates include the Environmental Rights Amendment, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Act of 1978. Agencies must meet their responsibilities to identify all eligible historical resources that may be affected by their actions. The

**HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES
LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY	NAME	YEAR LISTED
Lehigh	Alburtis	George F. Schlicher Hotel	1992
		Lock Ridge Furnace Complex	1981
	Allentown	Alburtes L. Meyers Bridge	1988
		Allentown Masonic Temple	2004
		Allentown National Bank Building	2005
		Americus Hotel	1984
		Bogart Covered Bridge	1980
		Dime Savings & Trust Company	1985
		Gauff-Roth House	1985
		High German Evangelical Reformed Church	1983
		Hotel Sterling	1984
		Neuweiler Brewery	1980
		Old Lehigh County Courthouse	1981
		Trout Hall	1978
		Zollinger-Harned Co. Building	1979
	Bethlehem	Bethlehem Armory	1991
		Burnside Plantation	1990
		Lehigh Valley Silk Mills	1993
		Mt. Airy Historic District	1988
	Catasauqua	Biery's Port Historic District	1984
		Catasauqua Residential Historic District	1984
		George Taylor House	1971
	Coopersburg	Coopersburg Historic District	1982
		Linden Grove Pavilion	1979
	Coplay	Coplay Cement Co. Kilns	1980
	Emmaus	Jacob Ehrenhardt Jr. House	2003
		The Shelter House	1978
	Heidelberg	Bridge in Heidelberg Township	1988
	Lower Macungie	Rodale Organic Gardening Experimental Farm	1999
	Lower Milford	Dillingersville Union School & Church	1979
Lowhill	Frantz's Bridge	1988	
Lynn	Frederick Leaser Farm	2004	
Macungie	Valentine Weaver House	1984	
North Whitehall	Geiger Covered Bridge	1980	
	Rex Covered Bridge	1980	
	Schlicher's Bridge	1980	
Salisbury	Kemmerer House (Iron Gate)	1977	
Slatington	Fireman's Drinking Fountain	1981	
	Slatington Historic District	2004	

**HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES
LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

(cont'd.)

Lehigh (cont'd.)	South Whitehall	Dorneyville Crossroad Settlement	1977
		Haines Mill	1981
		Manasses Guth Covered Bridge	1980
		Wehr Covered Bridge	1980
	Upper Saucon	Centennial Bridge	1988
	Washington	Vigilant Fire Company's Firemen's Monument	2004
	Whitehall	Cold Spring Bridge	1988
		Dent Hardware Company Factory Complex	1986
		Helfrich's Springs Grist Mill	1977
multiple	Troxell-Steckel House	1980	
	Lehigh Canal	1979	
Northampton	Allen	Kreidersville Covered Bridge	1980
	Bangor	Bridge in Bangor Borough	1988
		Real Estate Building	1986
	Bath	Daniel Steckel House	1982
	Bethlehem	Bethlehem Silk Mill	2005
		Bethlehem Steel Lehigh Plant No. 2/Merchant Mill No. 2	2004
		Central Bethlehem Historic District	1972
		Elmwood Park Historic District	1988
		Fountain Hill Historic District	1988
		Gemeinhaus-De Schweinitz Residence	1975
		Gristmill's House	1973
		Illick's Mill	2005
		Lehigh Valley Railroad Headquarters Bldg.	1984
		Moravian Sun Inn	1973
		Old Waterworks	1972
		Packer Memorial Chapel	1979
		Pembroke Village Historic District	1988
	South Bethlehem Downtown Historic District	2006	
	The Tannery	1972	
	Bushkill	Jacobsburg Historic District	1977
Easton	Chain Bridge (ruins)	1974	
	College Hill Residential Historic District	1991	
	Easton Cemetery	1990	
	Easton Historic District	1983	
	Easton House	1980	
	Herman Simon House	1980	
	Jacob Mixsell House	1980	
	Jacob Nicholas House (Little Stone House)	1976	

HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES			
(cont'd.)			
Northampton (cont'd.)	Easton (cont'd.)	Parsons-Taylor House	1980
		State Theatre	1982
		William Jacob Heller House	1982
		Zeta Psi Fraternity House	2001
	Lower Saucon	Ehrhart's Mill Complex Historic District	1987
	Nazareth	McCollum & Post Silk Mill	2005
		Nazareth Hall Tract	1980
		Nazareth Historic District	1988
		Whitefield House & Gray Cottage	1980
	Palmer	Seipsville Hotel	1977
	Pen Argyl	Weona Park Carousel	1999
	Portland	County Bridge #36	1988
	Williams	Arndt, Jacob, House and Barn	2005
Bridge in Williams Township		1988	
Coffeetown Grist Mill		1977	
Isaac Stout House		2004	
multiple	Delaware Division of Pennsylvania Canal	1994	
multiple	Lehigh Canal	1979	

Source: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2006

presence of historic sites sets a greater restriction on government actions than on private ones. If a site is listed or eligible to be listed on the NRHP, federal and state agencies must show there is no feasible and prudent alternative to avoiding the feature before it can be eliminated. Private property owners do not have to comply with federal and state mandates regarding NRHP sites. The table above lists historical resources found in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Historical Marker Program

The Pennsylvania Historical Marker program was established in 1946. This popular Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) program is responsible for the blue and gold roadside markers that highlight people, places and events significant in state and national history. There are about 1,800 markers across the entire state. Ninety-six markers can be found in the Lehigh Valley (29 in Lehigh County and 67 in Northampton County). Any person or organization may submit nominations for historical markers. If the nominations are postmarked by January 5 each year, they will be evaluated the following spring by a panel of independent experts from across the state and reviewed by PHMC commissioners.

Scenic Resources

Lehigh and Northampton counties' outstanding scenic quality and sense of place is created from the interrelationship between the natural features, rural areas, undeveloped open space, and the cities and boroughs. The result is a rural character, punctuated by significant community, natural and historical resources. This character has made the Lehigh Valley a destination as a visitor attraction and also as an attractive place to live and work. Thus, the protection of scenic resources is critical to maintaining the sense of place.

Scenic resources that contribute to the local character are river and stream valleys, farmland, covered bridges, historic districts and linear parkways. Examples of these Lehigh Valley scenic resources include:

Scenic Waterways

- Delaware River
- Lehigh River
- Bushkill Creek
- Jordan Creek
- Little Lehigh Creek



Scenic Views

- Bake Oven Knob
- South Mountain lookout (Lehigh University)
- Stouts Valley



Scenic Features

- Bethlehem Historic District
- The Bethlehem Star
- Little Lehigh Parkway
- Nazareth town square
- Minsi Lake



Scenic roadways are another type of scenic resource, specifically byways and drives. The Pennsylvania Scenic Byways Program, administered by PennDOT's Bureau of Planning & Research, designates qualified roadways as scenic byways in support of local planning efforts. To qualify for this designation, a roadway must meet certain requirements regarding quality, outdoor advertising restriction, and local support. Local, state or federally-owned roadways may be nominated by any governmental entity provided the owner of the roadway agrees with the nomination. Currently, 15 scenic byways are designated in Pennsylvania, one of which is located along Rt. 611 in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County. Scenic drive is another type of scenic roadway designation found in Pennsylvania. In November 1987, Pennsylvania House Bill No. 1982 designated the Delaware River Scenic Drive, portions

of which are located within Northampton County. The aforementioned designated drive and byway, along with other scenic roadways within the two counties, are listed below:

Scenic Byways and Drives

- Pennsylvania Scenic Byway (Rt. 611, Little Creek Road and Belvidere Highway, Northampton County)
- Delaware River Scenic Drive (Route 611, Belvidere Highway, Riverton Road and River Road, Northampton County)
- Kistler Valley Road (Lynn Township, Lehigh County)
- Limeport Pike (Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County)
- Wassergass/Raubsville roads (Williams Township, Northampton County)



Stouts Valley Scenic Viewshed