

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

571

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
Other names/site number: Perkasie Park
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 200 South Ninth Street
City or town: Perkasie State: PA County: Bucks
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: XA ___B XC ___D

<u>Andrea McDonald</u>		<u>7/5/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official/Title:		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

8/29/2016
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>63</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>66</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

- RELIGION / Religious Facility
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC / Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions

- RELIGION / Religious Facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE / Outdoor recreation
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN / Gothic (Carpenter Gothic)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: WOOD / Weatherboard; Foundation: BRICK;
Roof: ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting (PPCM) is one of a small number of surviving intact late 19th century camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania. It is located in the Borough of Perkasie, 20 miles south of Bethlehem and 40 miles north of Philadelphia. The camp meeting is situated near the western corner of the borough on the north side of South Ninth Street between West Market Street and West Park Avenue. The property encompasses 21 acres with a gentle rise to the northwest, much of which is wooded or surrounded by woodland, an ideal setting for a 19th century camp meeting. The camp meeting is organized in a classic camp meeting plan. At its center is a large open-sided auditorium situated on a rectangular-shaped green or commons; dozens of two-story seasonal frame cottages for camp attendees face the commons on all four sides. Additional cottages face walkways beyond the commons. The camp's access drive encircles the commons and most cottages. Communal dining and recreational areas are located on the flat, park-like lawn area immediately south of these cottages. The camp meeting contains 66 buildings (63 contributing and three noncontributing), plus two contributing objects, and one contributing structure. Contributing buildings include 58 cottages and four communal buildings (the Auditorium, Pavilion, Refreshment Stand/Library, and a storage building). Noncontributing buildings include two heavily altered cottages and the new Dining Hall. The two objects are an obelisk and a water pump; the structure is the ruin of a water cistern/reservoir tank. The cottages are almost all two-story buildings, some of which display Folk Victorian or Late Victorian era architectural detailing (of special note are Carpenter Gothic influences). The property also contains several minor landscape features including two small culverts/bridges and

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a stone wall lining the entrance drive. Perkasie Park retains its integrity as a camp meeting; substantial changes to the property since the end of the period of significance have been limited to replacing the dining hall and the loss of two cottages in the mid-twentieth century.

Narrative Description

Note: Numbers in brackets represent the resource number [34], for example, or photo number beginning with "P", [P5] for example.

Setting

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting (PPCM) is located on 21 acres of land in the western part of the Borough of Perkasie, Bucks County, PA. The mainly wooded property rises to the northwest. The southeastern third of the property (facing South Ninth Street) is a mainly open lawn area used for recreational purposes; a line of evergreens has been planted along the street. The northwest portion of the property, where the camp meeting complex itself is located, is moderately wooded. Mature trees are located throughout the complex providing natural shade (typical in most camp meetings, which were built long before modern air conditioning). The remainder of the land is densely forested north and west of the complex. The property's northeast boundary abuts the elevated bed of the former Liberty Bell Trolley, which historically brought campers here. Portions of the elevated trolley bed are located on the PPCM property. Small streams flow southeast through the eastern and western portions of the property.

The land abutting Perkasie Park represents a mixture of uses. Residential subdivisions are located to the west and to the north along North Ridge Road. The properties immediately east of PPCM are heavily wooded and include the bulk of the elevated Liberty Bell Trolley line. Commercial and governmental buildings are located along South Ninth Street.

PPCM has a typical camp meeting layout. Its long property drive leads to a service road encircling the commons area and the bulk of the cottages; PPCM (and most other camp meetings) do not allow automotive access inside this perimeter drive. The cottages and commons area are accessed by paved walks. Inside the drive is a wooded, grassy commons area [P16] where the Auditorium [71, P1] is located. Cement lanes or walks line the edges of the rectangular-shaped commons near the front of the 38 cottages facing the commons, and a transverse concrete path roughly bisects the commons. Outside of the circular drive are the communal or service buildings (mostly to the

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southeast) and additional cottages constructed along two spurs. One spur is a walking path that leads east from the drive to access a row of nine cottages constructed in 1923; automotive access is provided by a parallel lane along the north side of the cottages. The second spur leads northwest to access four cottages and a former youth dormitory in the "Nob Hill" portion of the camp meeting (note: this is the only portion of the camp meeting with a specific name used by camp attendees).

Visitors today enter the property today by a drive off South Ninth Street. The drive passes over two small culverts/bridges. The drive turns to the east and joins the paved loop drive. Public or visitor parking is located near the intersection of the loop drive and the access drive off South Ninth Street; a gravel lot is located between the loop drive and the rear elevation of some cottages. Across the drive are two community buildings and a tennis court. Other resources are also located near the gravel parking area, including the obelisk inside the drive and the refreshment stand on the outside.

The specific resource description below begins with the Auditorium, which anchors the camp meeting. The description will then describe various cottages, concluding with the remaining resources.

Auditorium [P1, P13]

The camp meeting's central historic resource is the Auditorium [71], a worship space sometimes called the *Pavilion* within the Perkasie Park community; this building was commonly called the *Tabernacle* in many camp meetings (see page 50 for historic photo comparison). This large frame building occupies the south central part of the commons, and was and continues to be used for religious gatherings and other events. Constructed 1884-1887, the PPCM Auditorium is a frame building with a rectangular shape and a hipped roof oriented north/south. It contains a large covered seating area, stage, and a two-story living space attached to the south end for nonresident ministers. Typical of camp meeting tabernacle design, the Auditorium is open on three sides to the common area and cottages that surround it; its frequent services and associated events were thus naturally "broadcast" to the entire camp meeting. The topography creates the building's natural auditorium slope of the seating area down to the stage or pulpit.

The building's roof features clipped gables on the north and south ends and three louvered dormers on each slope (dormers added in 1887). The outer walls are mostly arcades formed by square posts that stand on brick piers to support the roof framing. The southern end of the Auditorium is an elevated pulpit or stage. The wall surface here is frame, stuccoed on the exterior except for a 2x2 window with a slightly pointed lintel

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on the east and west walls. The ceiling over the pulpit curves downward to the southern wall, a pre-microphone acoustic technique to help broadcast a speaker's voice across the surrounding area. Church pews are arranged in two ranks facing the stage; they appear to date to the early twentieth century. The seating area consists of two ranks of open benches (called slip pews in the 19th century), divided by a central aisle. The exposed roof framing is visible above. A door on the rear wall of the pulpit accesses the unusual residential area behind the stage. The 2-story residential section of the building is frame, with a dart-shaped jigsaw bargeboard and frame walls. (A similar arrangement, which housed visiting ministers, was found on the Chester Heights Camp Meeting (NR listed 2001) tabernacle, prior to its recent destruction by fire.) It has an exterior door on the east end, opening onto a frame set of stairs leading down to grade.

Cottages

The camp meeting's frame cottages [P 2-10, 17-20] surround the rectangular commons and Auditorium on all four sides. The majority of the camp meeting's cottages are 2-story buildings with a front end gable. Of the 59 cottages at the camp meeting, 38 are constructed around the immediate perimeter of the commons. A walkway around the perimeter of the commons runs in front of these cottages. The remainder of the cottages are 1.5 stories; there are no 1-story cottages. In typical camp meeting fashion, they sit just a few feet from one another and thus their front end gables create a rhythmic pattern throughout the camp, but most visibly around the commons. While they are largely vernacular buildings, influence from the Carpenters Gothic style is prevalent. Dormers, while uncommon, include long shed and gabled designs, creating useable upper level space. Many cottages feature a decorative bargeboard on the gables and the eaves and/or pendants in the gables. Most cottages have a front porch, a very common feature in camp meetings that helped promote communal interaction; several porches have been screened. Seven cottages have 2-story porches; all were constructed prior to 1900. Common porch features include turned spindle balusters, gingerbread brackets and roof balconies off the second floor. The wall surfaces of the cottages are primarily wood clapboard or German siding; a few are clad in tarpaper or vinyl. Window types vary widely, and include 2x2, 6x1, and 1x1 sash units; most are historic if not original. Some cottages include decorative window frames and shutters. Most cottages rest on stone or brick piers, with a crawl space beneath. Because the fronts of the cottages face onto the commons, visitors to the property first observe the rear elevation of cottages 52 to 62. Each cottage has a number and name (e.g., cottage #48 is "Distelfink"). The numbering system has changed through the years.

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Cottage #48 or “Distelfink” is one of the more stylish cottages facing onto the commons [P17]. It was originally called “Fern Rock.” This 2-story cottage is located on the west side of the commons. The peak of its front end gable extends outward to create a second floor porch. The peak is supported by a king’s post truss, behind which is finely crafted jigsaw ornamentation. The gable also features a wavy bargeboard. The second floor porch features a door opening between two 2x2 windows. The first floor has a screened porch that features a screen door incorporating an unusual sunrise motif.

Cottage #47 or “Glen” [P17] is another 2-story cottage with an intricate jigsaw gable ornament, sawtooth siding, and a 2-story porch. Cottage #39, “Valley Green,” retains wood shingled siding with varying lower edges and of varying colors in its front end gable. Cottage #38, “The Covered Bridge,” has the finest 2-story porch at Perkasie Park Camp Meeting. Its upper porch has a hipped roof supported by three thin columns connected by a railing. The lower porch extends further south than the upper porch; it has its own hipped roof, columns with gingerbread brackets, and railing. Cottage #25, “Viola’s Inn,” is one of the wider cottages. Its front end gable includes two projecting gabled elements. The western projection consists of a projecting gable over a 3-panel bay window with diamond panes, and the eastern projection is a narrow element with kicked eaves. The two gables are constructed onto the front porch roof. Cottage #16, “Sunnyside” [P19], is located on the east side of the commons. It features an unusual gable ornament consisting of a frame semi-circle with spindles that reach up into the peak of the gable. Sunnyside’s front porch is one of several with cross-bracing connecting the turned columns.

Woodlyne cottage [27, P18] is located near the northwest corner. It has a mansard roof clad and may be considered a Second Empire style cottage, a rare style treatment for most any camp meeting. The mansard covers the second floor (there is no third floor as often found on Second Empire buildings). The cottage has 2x2 dormer windows in the mansard and an elevated projecting porch facing onto the commons. A 1-story porch wraps around the west, south, and east sides; the portion on the west side is screened. The entrance (below the projecting porch) is one of the most formal in the camp meeting; a paneled door opens below a 2-pane transom and features 2-pane sidelights.

While the majority of the cottages face the commons, several are located on the spurs north and east of the perimeter road. The east spur contains several of the camp meeting’s larger cottages, constructed either for preachers or camp meeting founders. These cottages, numbered 1 through 9, were constructed in 1901. Like all cottages on

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the spurs, these cottages do not directly face the commons. When local families walked to Perkasie Park for a camp meeting, they first saw these cottages.

A typical cottage on the east spur is Sunshine, or cottage #8 [P9]. It is an American Foursquare with a front porch and a rear addition. The 2.5-story, 3-bay building faces south and features a decorative weather vane at the apex of the roof. Its pyramidal roof is clad with standing seam tin and features a hipped roof dormer with exposed rafter tails and a 12-light window. The overhanging eaves feature shaped exposed rafter tails. The frame walls are clad with narrow clapboards. Fenestration is balanced although not vertically aligned. On the main elevation, the second floor has two 6x1 windows with inoperable louvered shutters. The first floor has a double door in the center bay, flanked by 2x2 windows with inoperable paneled shutters. The front porch is a full-length element with a hipped roof clad with standing seam tin and supported by jigsaw brackets and turned columns (the latter connected by a low railing). The porch stands on stone piers. Other cottages on the east spur include "Seventh Heaven," or Cottage #7 [P20], which consists of an octagonal main block, a hipped front porch with a corner gable, and a 2-story rear addition; and two 1.5-story cottages with a gambrel roof.

The walking path leading northwest from the commons accesses two cottages inside the loop road and continues to access another five cottages north of the loop road. This area is called "Nob Hill" and is the part of the camp meeting with the highest elevation. All cottages in Nob Hill are located on the west side of the walking path. The cottages include Cottage #33, named "Dutch Corner." It is a typical 2-story, 3-bay cottage located near the west corner of the commons [P6]. Its front end gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles and features small gabled dormers with paired 4-light casement windows on both slopes. A bargeboard running around the perimeter of the roof features a decorative wavy pattern and a pendant in the gables. The frame walls of the building are clad with narrow vertical siding; the siding above the eaveline laps over the first floor cladding with a sawtooth pattern along the eaveline. The front end gable has two second floor windows: a jalousie window near the peak of the gable and a paired 1x1 window with a stepped hood molding and louvered shutters. A screened porch with a gabled roof shades the first floor of the main elevation. Inside the porch, a 4-paneled door opens between 2x2 double hung sash windows. The rear elevation features a small enclosed porch and deck just off a temporary parking area. Cottage #32 ("Lodging House"), located at the intersection of the perimeter road and the walking path up Nob Hill, was originally a youth dormitory. The 2.5-story, 3-bay building is one of the largest cottages at PPCM; it features shed dormers, 2x2 windows with shutters, and a front porch with turned posts and gingerbread brackets.

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Three cottages are located on a short walkway leading north from the northeast corner. Cottage #23, named "Three Oaks," is the more interesting cottages at Perkasie Park [P8]. The 2-story, 2-bay frame cottage faces east. The steeply pitched roof is clad with asphalt shingles; it has long shed dormers with paired 4-light casement windows centered on the side walls. The frame walls are clad with vertical beaded boards, with three bands of horizontal boards (two above the eaveline). The front end gable features a jalousie window in the peak of the gable over a 2x2 double hung sash window on the second floor with a lip lintel and sill. An incised porch on the main elevation has turned columns in the outer corners, supporting the corners of the second floor. A paneled door and a paired 2x2 window are located on the wall surface of the porch. The cottage's side walls feature three 2x2 windows with batten shutters, and sit on a series of stone piers.

Community Buildings

Four community buildings stand immediately south of the circular drive, overlooking the camp meeting's recreational green space to the south. These buildings are the Refreshment Stand/Library, the Dining Hall (NC), and the Pavilion with its ancillary storage building.

One of the first buildings seen by visitors to the camp meeting is the Pavilion [P12], a 1-story frame building constructed in 1901. The Pavilion was originally constructed as an open octagonal roof supported on posts and was used for services in German and small gatherings. It was relocated to its current location in the very early twentieth century, and later its walls were enclosed. The frame walls are clad with beaded vertical siding and feature paired 1x1 windows on the east and west elevations, exposed rafter tails below the overhanging roof, and large hinged doors on the south and west elevations. Immediately west of the Pavilion is a small frame storage building that dates to c.1920. The Pavilion may have also been called the Tabernacle by earlier camp meeting attendees (based on historic photos in the Camp Meeting's archives).

The Refreshment Stand / Library [P11] is a 1-story, 3-bay building constructed in 1886-1887 east of the Dining Hall. The building has a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles; a roof extension on the north side provides protection for camp meeting "customers" at the sales window. The building's frame walls are clad in German siding. The main (north) elevation features a door leading into the current library. Next to the door is a 9x9 window with a lip lintel and sill, and a wide hinged door that accesses a window for selling refreshments. The west end wall has a 4-panel door accessing the interior and a

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9x9 window. The building stands on brick piers. On the north side of the property drive opposite the refreshment stand is an unusual 2.5 feet high, 8-sided marble obelisk. The original purpose of this object is unknown.

The Dining Hall [NC, P21] is a 1-story rectangular building located between the Pavilion and the Library. The original dining hall collapsed during a snow storm in 1996; this slightly smaller building was constructed later that year in its place. It has an end-gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles. The walls are frame, with a window band running around the wall surface aligned with the lintels of the doors on the north, east, and west walls. Although noncontributing and smaller than the original dining hall, it does not disrupt the integrity of PPCM partly due to its perimeter location and because its design incorporates that of the original.

Other non-building resources are scattered across the property. The unusual eight-sided marble obelisk [79] is located at the entrance to the spur headed east. The iron mechanism ruins of a water pump [78] are located northwest of the campus behind the Nob Hill cottages.

Integrity

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting retains integrity as demonstrated by the seven aspects of integrity. Among the most important aspects of integrity of the camp meeting include feeling, design, and association. The setting is also critical, as the adjacent woodlands contribute to the historic feeling of the property and were an important component of the original decision to locate the camp meeting here.

- **Location.** PPCM remains on its original site as do its resources and historic layout.
- **Design.** The design of PPCM remains intact. The original camp meeting design consisting of a rectangular commons area where the Auditorium is located, surrounded by cottages facing inward, remains as an example of one of the three most common camp meeting layouts. Changes to this original layout are limited. Early twentieth century changes, during the period of significance, include the moving of the Pavilion to its current location near the entrance and the construction of cottages along the two spurs, a process which was complete by 1925 (well within the period of significance). In the mid twentieth century, two cottages were removed, but their loss does not seriously undermine the design of the property as a whole. Associated resources found in other camp meetings such as public bathrooms and privies associated with the cottages do not survive at PPCM. A recent change was the rebuilding of the dining hall after the earlier

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building collapsed during a snow storm. Some recreational resources survive near Ninth Street.

- **Setting.** The setting of PPCM is one of its most important elements. As noted, its historic, ideal camp meeting circular plan is intact. It was built on a gently sloping, wooded hillside that provided a natural amphitheater setting for the Auditorium while the trees provided shade. This is unchanged. The majority of cottages still face onto the commons and its Auditorium, securing the camp's historic focal point. Vehicles remain outside of the cottage/commons area, and small walkways along the fronts of the cottages continue to serve the cottagers and visitors alike, thus retaining the PPCM's very real human scale. The perimeter location of ancillary buildings and recreation facilities augment this setting. All of these features, including the continual religious and social activities of the camp, which were central to the camp meeting experience historically, remain strongly intact.
- **Materials.** Resources at PPCM have a strong retention of their original materials, mainly wood. A small number of cottages have asbestos siding (machined shingles) or synthetic siding (aluminum or vinyl). The most common replacement material is asphalt shingles for the cottage roofs.
- **Workmanship.** The cottages retain the evidence of their original building technology. Decorative elements such as bargeboards, window treatments, and turned columns continue to be character-defining features of many cottages. The small-scale design and layout of the cottages accentuates the prevailing Carpenter Gothic influences of the camp meeting's resources.
- **Feeling.** A visitor to PPCM who has experienced other camp meetings will immediately recognize PPCM as a typical late 19th century camp meeting. It retains its original camp meeting design featuring cottages on small walkways facing inward onto the commons area and Auditorium (often called a tabernacle in many camp meetings). Its wooded, secluded setting surrounding these resources and others augments the historic camp meeting feeling.
- **Association.** PPCM, as an intact camp meeting maintaining its historic use, retains its association with the overall camp meeting movement of the late 19th century. Its physical features that were standard elements of camp meetings continue to convey the property's historic character.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

RELIGION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1882-1960

Significant Dates

1882

1884

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Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting (“Perkasie Park” or “PPCM”) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its important association with the American camp meeting movement and under Criterion C for its design and architecture. It is an example of one of three camp meeting layouts common in the 19th century, specifically a camp meeting with a rectangular green or commons area containing a tabernacle with cottages facing onto the commons. The defining features of most historic camp meetings survive at Perkasie Park, including its tabernacle (called “Auditorium” at Perkasie Park), its collection of cottages, community buildings, and a wooded setting and intimate layout that fostered a multi-day spiritual experience surrounded by nature. Many of the property’s vernacular frame buildings here exhibit Carpenter Gothic detailing, particularly noticeable in front porches and details such as gable ornaments, pendants, hood molding and bargeboards. The period of significance for PPCM begins in 1882 with the purchase of the property and extends to 1960, the approximate date when the denominational (United Methodist) guidance of Perkasie Park ended and the non-denominational camp association assumed the management of the facility. Today the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting is one of approximately twenty intact camp meetings that continue in operation in eastern Pennsylvania.

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting originated as part of a movement associated with the Baptist and Methodist denominations. The district is a religious property that derives its significance from its association with the camp meeting movement, and for the vernacular architecture of the resources that reflect a typical camp meeting plan and aesthetic, and so meets Criteria Consideration A. The United Methodist Church remains a shareholder, but the property is now operated as a non-denominational non-profit.

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Criterion A Significance

In the decades following the American Civil War, several Christian denominations began holding camp meetings in groves throughout the nation. These camp meetings differed in nature from the earlier camp meetings. Much of the following information on the general history of camp meetings comes from an analysis written by Charles H. Lippy that set forth the three main historic phases of camp meetings.¹

The first phase of camp meetings began in the late 18th century and continued through the mid-19th century. This phase constitutes what Lippy called the “initial harvest” of Methodism (although Baptists held similar meetings). During this time, itinerant preachers travelled into frontier America to hold services and revivals, and establish congregations. In the Scottish and English traditions, meetings were often held outside over several days. Travel and lodging (originally in tents) was often required, hence the term “camp meeting.”

Methodists as well as Baptists held various types of open air meetings as a part of a shift in the American religious experience. One shift was singing, which was a major part of the camp meeting experience. While singing had been a part of Christian worship prior to this time, songs took on a new role in the mid-18th century. The frequency of singing during worship increased, although singing did not supplant the sermon as the central focus of the service. Congregational singing provided a sense of group contribution and experience during worship in a new way, and the new songs emphasized the importance of a spiritual awakening.

The Baptist use of such camp meetings helped them to become the largest denomination in the United States by 1800, and the Methodists then used camp meetings to supplant Baptists as the largest US denomination early in the 19th century. These were the two primary denominations using camp meetings prior to the Civil War. Features of this phase of camp meetings related to the general parameters of life in those days. Families would travel to the camp meetings and sleep in tents. Particular camp meeting sites were not always permanent, as those who chose to join the faith would then begin attending local worship services. Ongoing annual camp meetings on a particular site became an element of the second phase of camp meetings.

The second phase of camp meetings began in the mid-19th century and lasted for approximately 75 years. This phase was influenced by the Holiness Revival; Lippy

¹ Charles H. Lippy, “The Camp Meeting in Transition: the Character and Legacy of the Late Nineteenth Century,” in *Methodist History* 34:1 (1995), pp. 3-17.

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called the phase “Methodism’s adolescence.” The first phase focused on the initial Christian experience (conversion or justification), while the second phase focused on the desire to experience the “second blessing,” meaning the ongoing spiritual learning and growth in the faith (sanctification). During the second phase, camp meetings became annual events providing a safe haven for learning the values of the faith. B.W. Gorham’s book *Camp Meeting Manual: A Practical Book for the Campground, in Two Parts*² outlined three elements critical to the success of a camp meeting: 1) a hospitable environment (including positive sentiment among local residents and few nearby centers of vice); 2) availability of natural resources (water and pastureland); and 3) the proper camp meeting landscape atmosphere (including trees to create a natural air cooling canopy for the camp meeting). One common factor of the camp meeting experience Gorham did not mention was proximity to public transportation (train or trolley), as many campers formed bonds travelling to and from the camp meeting.

By the 1880s, cottages began replacing the more temporary tents in many camp meetings. By then many camp meetings had become annual events thus fostering the desire to stay in more suitable quarters. The meetings attracted people from diverse places to meet with old friends for communal activities such as worship, prayer, and meals. The emphasis on offering a wholesome experience precluded the use of alcohol and tobacco as well as wrestling or “field fighting,” a common pastime of the first phase of camp meetings that one itinerant Methodist minister had found appalling back in 1802.³ These lists of precluded activities date to the second phase of camp meetings. The number of denominations sponsoring camp meetings also increased. Smaller denominations joining the Baptists and Methodists in the second phase included the Evangelical Association (founders of Perkasie Park and nearby Highland Park Camp Meeting) and the United Brethren (who established Camp Meetings at Mt. Gretna and Mt. Lebanon, PA, among others).

The third phase of camp meetings is one of decline and change. Lippy expresses the latter as a shift from the religious oriented camps to youth oriented camps. In the earliest camp meetings, the schedule for each day consisted of extended worship with breaks for meals. By the latter decades of the 19th century, children’s programming emerged in many camp meetings, offering Sunday School activities and educational programs such as those associated with the Chautauqua movement. This phase was distinctive from the earlier phases because the purpose of many camp meetings

² B.W. Gorham, *Camp Meeting Manual: A Practical Book for the Campground, in Two Parts* (Boston MA: H.V. Degan, 1854).

³ Lippy, p. 3.

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changed from a family religious experience to a youth experience which was not necessarily religious.

Indeed, mid-20th century camp meetings faced several factors that brought about decline, change and even closure. Camp meetings, once a respite from the city, faced disruption or competition with the world wars, particularly World War II, interstate highways, air conditioning, resorts and the rising middle class (who could afford to go elsewhere for vacations). Half of all known camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania have ceased operating since 1900. Kenneth O. Brown, who wrote two books on camp meetings, compiled a list of camp meetings (the list is in the possession of the PPCM).⁴ Brown identified 40 camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania; research for this nomination identified one camp meeting not on his list. Of these 41, only 19 remain active, but several ending dates are unknown. Four were discontinued early in the 20th century (Millway in 1916, Joanna Heights in 1923, Morhsville in 1939, and Twin Oaks in 1940). A second cluster closed in the late 20th century (Langhorne in 1960, Wescosville in 1963, Mizpah in 1968, and Simpson Grove in 1974). The Stoverdale Camp Meeting closed in the early twenty first century; the Chester Heights Camp Meeting was devastated by two fires in the first decade of the 21st century, and its future is tenuous.

Perkasie Park is significant in this context of the general camp meeting movement. It was organized by the Evangelical Association (or Evangelical Church, or German Methodists), a denomination with 106,546 members as of 1906.⁵ (The Evangelical Association had about 150,000 members in 1891 before the church divided. About 100,000 stayed with the EA while 50,000 formed the United Evangelical Church.) Camp meetings were important to the Evangelical Association. The Association restricted the use of English in its services, using only German. The two-week typical camp meetings enabled the association to reinforce the use of German amongst its members, as well as its religious values. Likewise, the Methodists and Baptists used the camp meetings to reinforce their religious values and teachings. Using the Libby thesis as a guide, Perkasie Park fits within the second and third phases of U.S. camp meeting history. (For National Register purposes, few fit into the first phase as it predated actual building of most camp meetings.) During this phase, values associated with the Holiness movement influenced organizers of Perkasie Park: land for the camp meeting was purchased, the facility was laid out in accordance with typical camp meeting design (see

⁴ Kenneth O. Brown, "East Pennsylvania Camp Meeting Directory," listing of camp meetings in eastern Pa.

⁵U.S. Census, *United States Census of Religious Bodies* (Washington DC: US Census Bureau, 1906), p. 30.

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Criterion C discussion, below), and cottages and other buildings were constructed. This facility was augmented by the prescribed regimen of religious activities, centered in the Auditorium.

Unlike so many other camp meetings, Perkasie Park did not materially change in the 20th century. While membership declined, there was never a closing of the entity much less a loss of cottages. Ongoing use of the property for non-religious activities including community events and sports activities and the ongoing use of the property by campers during summers contributed to the life of PPCM. The Evangelical Church merged with the United Brethren in Christ in 1946, forming the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church. The EUB Church united with the Methodist Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church. In the 1960s the camp meeting lost the active participation of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Methodist Church remains a shareholder in the Park Association. Perkasie Park reorganized as a nondenominational association, and has continued as such to the present. It expanded its schedule beyond the historic two week time frame and continues to sponsor organized religious programs. Its survival as a camp meeting thus celebrates the contributions of the Evangelical Association to the general context of camp meetings in the United States.

Criterion C Significance

Camp meetings as a building type have three defining features: their layout and location, a tabernacle or auditorium that anchors the community, and cottages. Comparing and contrasting the camp meeting at Perkasie Park with other camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey demonstrates that CCPM is a significant example of the type. This context is based primarily on the following camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania: Perkasie Park, and the nearby Highland Park in Bucks County; Waldheim Park near Allentown; Elim Grove in Lehigh County; Landisville and Rawlinsville in Lancaster County; Mt. Lebanon and Mt. Gretna (NR 2012) in Lebanon County; Brandywine Summit (NR 1995) in Delaware County; and Chester Heights (NR 2001) in Chester County. All of these camp meetings were established between 1869 and 1910.

The first defining feature of camp meetings is their layout and location. Camp meetings were usually located in rural areas or at least well outside large cities. With exceptions, camp meetings are located well-off and often out-of-sight of main roads. Most were located in wooded areas (for shade and coolness) generally located on flat ground or gently sloping hillsides. The plan usually consists of a roughly circular drive surrounding a commons area. Within the commons area is large open-aired auditorium, usually

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called the tabernacle. Facing the commons area and located along the circular drive and narrow streets or paths are cottages. Beginning in the 20th century, vehicles were generally not allowed inside the circular drive, thus helping to retain the quiet ambiance of the camp. As camp meetings grew, a common means of accommodating additional cottages was the addition of spurs off the commons (PPCM, Chester Heights, Brandywine Summit) or additional lanes that enlarged the camp meeting grid outside the commons (Mt. Gretna, Rawlinsville, Landisville). These spurs or new lanes are double loaded except at PPCM, where the front porches of cottages do not face each other. Some camp meetings restrict the use of cars on the additional lanes and are thus walking lanes, and often quite narrow (Brandywine Summit for example). Camp meetings were communal. Meals were taken in a communal dining hall. Other communal buildings may have included restrooms, offices, dormitories, camp store, library, or smaller meeting pavilions. These buildings are usually located outside of the circular drive.

Inside the circular drive, cottages (usually front-end gable and immediately adjacent to one another) face inward onto the commons, the shaded lawn area where the tabernacle is located. Three common arrangements of the cottages, tabernacle, and commons were identified in one of the early scholarly monographs, written by Charles Johnson in his book *The Frontier Camp Meeting*.⁶ The arrangement of the cottages and tabernacle is called the *circle* even if they are not arranged in a true circle. The three circle types are the actual circle, the horseshoe, and the rectangle, which includes Perkasie Park:

1. The Circle. This is the least common surviving camp meeting layout, with no examples found in Pennsylvania during research for this nomination. A nearby example is found at Pitman, NJ, where an inner ring road encircles the Pitman Grove Camp Meeting's tabernacle (NR 1977). The innermost cottages face onto this inner ring road. Twelve roads radiate out to the surrounding road system, with additional cottages facing onto the radiating roads. Waldheim Park near Allentown, Pa., has an irregular layout featuring cottages along a curve south of the tabernacle but along a well-defined grid to the north (thus forming a half-circle or "D"-shape).
2. The Horseshoe. This layout placed the tabernacle at one end of the commons, with cottages lining the two long sides and the opposite end (creating an elongated and squared U-shape cottage layout). The horseshoe layout was used

⁶ Charles A. Johnson, *The Frontier Camp Meeting* (Southern Methodist University Press, 1955), passim.

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at Chester Heights and the Landisville Camp Meeting in Landisville, Lancaster County.

3. The Rectangle. Perhaps the most common layout in eastern Pennsylvania was the rectangle, in which cottages face onto all four sides of the commons, framing the lawn area and the tabernacle within. Rectangular layouts are found at Brandywine Summit, Rawlinsville, Mt. Lebanon, Highland Park, and Perkasie Park.

The second defining element of camp meetings is the tabernacle (called the Auditorium at Perkasie Park). In most cases, the tabernacle is a rectangular building with open sides, located in the lower elevation of the open commons and usually shaded by mature trees. In the earliest phase of camp meeting in eastern Pennsylvania, the tabernacle had one open wall to accommodate additional seating outside the building. They are large buildings that can hold several hundred people. The tabernacle at the Chester Heights Camp Meeting (built 1878, destroyed by fire 2012) was an example of this early phase. Beginning around 1880, the design of tabernacles shifted to a large canopy roof supported at the eaves by posts, creating a building with three open sides. The pulpit and platform are located on one side of the tabernacle, often with an attached study and rooms for the minister's family. Such tabernacles are found at Brandywine Summit (c. 1888), Highland Park, and Perkasie Park. At Chester Heights, a youth pavilion (such small pavilions are found in many camp meetings) was constructed that looked like the tabernacle found in other camp meetings. In all these cases, the tabernacle is located off-center, in the lower elevations of the commons. This placement created a large, shaded open space for overflow crowds during worship and a well-defined area for children to play. The shape of the tabernacle varies; Brandywine Summit has a T-shaped tabernacle (the tabernacle at Chester Heights was also T-shaped); round tabernacles are found at Waldheim Park, Mt. Lebanon, and Mt. Gretna; and rectangular tabernacles were built at Perkasie, Landisville, Highland Park, and Rawlinsville. The Pavilion at PPCM, a smaller space for gatherings, originally had an octagonal shape with open walls on all sides.

The third defining element of camp meetings is the collection of cottages. The history of most camp meetings in eastern Pennsylvania is similar, with attending families sleeping in tents prior to the construction of cottages. The cottages were often constructed on the platforms that had been created for tents. The size of cottages varies. In Brandywine Summit, all cottages – by camp rules - are one story. Some camp meetings have mostly 1.5 story cottages (Landisville, Elim Grove, Waldheim Park); 2-story cottages are the dominant size at Perkasie Park, Mt. Gretna, Mt. Lebanon, and Highland Park. The

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architectural details of cottages also vary. The more established camp meetings, such as Chester Heights, Mt. Gretna, and Perkasie Park, contain the most stylish details and decorative wood trim. Cottages in other camp meetings such as Elim Grove and Brandywine Summit display fewer stylistic architectural details. At Highland Park, the cottages are similar in size to its closest neighbor – Perkasie Park, however its cottages are far simpler in exterior decorative trim. Finally, the cottages of most camp meetings were occupied in the warmer months only. Of these 10 camp meetings studied in eastern Pennsylvania, the only one with a substantial number of winterized cottages is Mt. Gretna; the other camp meetings are closed during the colder months.

One consideration in the evaluation of camp meetings is integrity. Two camp meetings surveyed for this project are no longer intact: Chester Heights, which sustained fires in 2011 and 2012 that burned the heart of the camp meeting, and Elim Grove, where a heavy snowfall caused the collapse of the tabernacle and the loss of many cottages. At Waldheim Park, the tabernacle was rebuilt in 1995, perhaps replacing the older tabernacle in kind. The remaining camp meetings evaluated here retain their setting, tabernacle, and cottages. The architectural detail of the cottages varies widely, with more stylish detail found at Mt. Gretna, Chester Heights (prior to the fire which destroyed many), Perkasie Park (and to a limited degree, nearby Highland Park), compared to simpler or plainer approach to cottage construction at Brandywine Summit, Mt. Lebanon and Landisville. According to the National Register nomination for the Mt. Gretna Camp Meeting, the oldest cottages at the Rawlinsville Camp Meeting date to only 1957, after the camp meeting movement had ceased to be a major force in American spiritual life.

Perkasie Park is an extremely fine representative example of a late 19th century camp meeting in eastern Pennsylvania. The three defining features of camp meetings are readily identifiable at PPCM: its layout and location, still marked by a restive and natural setting; a dominant central tabernacle; and frame cottages reflecting stylistic influences of the period. PPCM has a rectangular layout, the most common of the three historic camp meeting layouts in eastern Pennsylvania. Its tabernacle is a rectangular example of the type that was constructed after 1880, with a large canopy supported at the eaves by posts that shaded a large bank of open benches facing the pulpit/stage area. The cottages at PPCM are generally larger and more stylish than those found in many other camp meetings. These defining features, taken together, enable Perkasie Park Camp Meeting to effectively reflect the camp meeting movement and provide an authentic understanding of the distinctive architecture found within this type of camp meeting property.

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Property History

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting has been an important local location for camp meetings for 132 years. Founded in 1882 in connection with the Evangelical Association (a denomination sometimes informally called the German Methodists), the camp meeting's affiliation subsequently changed due to splits and mergers (United Evangelical Church 1894-1922, the Evangelical Church, 1922-1946, Evangelical United Brethren Church 1946-1968, and United Methodist Church since 1968). The existing buildings were mostly constructed during the years 1882 to 1901 to house and support the worshippers, which sometimes numbered in the thousands. The original design with tents surrounding the central Auditorium was soon upgraded as cottages replaced the tents. Annual denominational camp meetings ceased at Perkasie Park in 1924, but thereafter ministers held their conferences here for two decades and annual summer camps were held into the 1960s. The Park Association that manages events here has maintained many camp traditions and events through the years but has opened the pulpit to ministers of other denominations. The vast majority of the original cottages from the camp meeting period remain, as does the Auditorium, which continues to be used for regular religious services during the summer. Park members also continue the traditions from the camp meeting period; certified membership in a local church is required for Park membership and cottage ownership. Most cottagers attend services, live in the Park for part of the summer, and attend a final seasonal service that includes traditions from the camp meeting period. The Park is closed over the winter months.

Background

The Evangelical Association was a Christian denomination that existed in the United States from 1803 until 1922. Its founder, Jacob Albright, converted to Methodism in the very late 18th century. He began to preach Methodist tenets to people of German descent in southeastern Pennsylvania until the Methodist organization ordered him to stop preaching in the German language. Thereafter, he preached independently until his death in 1808. In 1816, his followers took the name "The Evangelical Association." Throughout the 19th century, the denomination opened congregations in the United States, Canada, and Germany.⁷ After the Civil War, the Evangelical Association began to hold camp meetings, or multi-day worship services outside of established church buildings and associated towns. These camp meetings were usually held in secluded rural areas. Camp meetings had been held by Baptists and Methodists for several years, but the number of such events grew dramatically in the post-Civil War years

⁷ Raymond W. Albright, *A History of the Evangelical Church* (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Evangelical Press, 1945), passim.

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between 1865 and 1890. In the 1860s and 1870s, the Evangelical Association held camp meetings near Perkasie Park in neighboring Sellersville and Rockhill Townships.⁸ When Perkasie was incorporated as a borough in 1879, the land where the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting now stands was open space just outside the Borough with a shady grove, natural springs and an active creek. The name “Perkasie Park” was in use to describe this popular gathering site before the camp meeting was organized here. Prior to the organization of the PPCM, the privately-owned grounds were used for picnics and public gatherings, religious and otherwise. Perkasie Park was one of the first picnic parks in the Perkasie area. In the PPCM archives is a ticket for the Perkasie Union Sunday School, which met at Perkasie Park on July 29, 1876.⁹ The land was eventually annexed from East Rockhill Township into the Borough of Perkasie in 1930.

Founding the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting

The Perkasie Park Camp Meeting was founded in 1882. Nine investors agreed to purchase the current property and “form a camp meeting association.” The investors included two prominent local businessmen, John Schwartz and Henry Moyer, three officials in the Evangelical Association, and four laymen.¹⁰ On June 30, 1882, the Park Association held its first organizational meeting in Moyer’s office in Perkasie. At that meeting, the group decided to issue 200 shares, at \$10 a share, to pay for the Park’s purchase, with Schwartz immediately buying 100 shares out of 132 shares offered for sale at that time. The first official Evangelical Association camp meeting at Perkasie Park was held in late July and early August 1882.¹¹

Articles of incorporation for the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting Association were drafted during the course of the inaugural camp meeting in 1882 and submitted in the Bucks County Court House on August 8th of that year. They were approved the following day. The Park Association’s statement of purpose in the articles of incorporation made it clear the Park was a religious facility first and foremost:

The purpose for which the corporation is formed is the maintenance of a private park in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of holding religious Camp

⁸ “Evangelical Camp Meeting at Perkasie,” *Reading Times and Dispatch*, August 14 1876. Item includes a description of camp meeting’s first location about the Landis Ridge train tunnel.

⁹ “Sellersville Items,” *Bucks County Intelligencer*, August 4, 1872. The newspaper notes the Park hosted its first events in late July 1872, including a picnic for more than 1,000 people that featured a cornet band.

¹⁰ Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Perkasie Park Association, Volume I. (1882-1914). p.1.

¹¹ Ibid, P. 2.

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Meetings, Sunday School celebrations, and other moral gatherings, in which the sale of intoxicating liquors, and dancing shall be forever prohibited.¹²

Orders were given to construct three buildings for the 1883 camp meeting season, including a preacher's cottage, a preaching platform and a third building (most likely a bath facility). Two wells were dug, and places were built to keep and feed horses. The Park's initial revenue came from renting "stands," or lots where camp meeting attendees could pitch tents. It also hosted local church reunions. During the camp meeting of 1883, the membership approved the proposed bylaws.¹³

Plans for the first permanent buildings were approved in 1886. Early in the year, the Board approved a preliminary plan for a Methodist-style rectangular plan camp meeting facility (see attached plans), including a permanent auditorium or tabernacle. The Evangelical Association also named Perkasie Park as its official camp meeting site for the association's Eastern Pennsylvania conference, the largest regional group in the national church. The *Perkasie Central News*, the local newspaper, reported in July 1886 that an "immense auditorium" had been built with 1,000 sofa chairs for the year's camp meeting, and that the preacher's cottage and speakers' platform had been remodeled.¹⁴

By September 1886, the final plan included an initial cluster of 25 cottages in a horseshoe pattern around the new auditorium, built by the Association and made available to members of the Association. Not only did the layout provide good acoustics, but it allowed families in the cottages to sit on their porches while the day visitors sat in the Auditorium. The auditorium's roof collapsed on January 13, 1887 during a snowstorm, and the current building was constructed that spring.¹⁵ The Park Association hired Schwartz to build the first group of cottages, and 17 were completed in time for the 1887 camp meeting season: 13 one-story cottages on 14' x 20' lots and four 2-story cottages built for more important Park figures, like Schwartz and Moyer.¹⁶ Attendance was said to be more than 30,000 people over the course of the week, at a time when Perkasie Borough had just 1,000 residents. Most came by railroad and

¹² Ibid, p.6.; Original handwritten version of articles and bylaws remains in the Park's possession.

¹³ Ibid. p. 7.

¹⁴ "Untitled Item." *Perkasie Central News*, July 29, 1886, as cited in James I. Moyer, *The History of Perkasie, Through the Eyes of the Central News, 1881-1945* (Buckingham, Pa.: Buckingham Impressions, 1999), p. 27.

¹⁵ Ibid. p. 29.

¹⁶ "Camp-Meeting," *Perkasie Central News*, July 27, 1887. Cottage owner lists were published in local newspapers, including the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

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carriage from Philadelphia, the near suburbs and the Berks and Lehigh Valley regions, with 300 people staying in the park in tents.¹⁷

In the fall of 1887, the 150,000-member Evangelical Association church became engrossed in a public, divisive split among the church's three leaders. Perkasie Park was a key property controlled by what was called the Minority faction of the church, led by Bishop Rudolph Dubs. Through a series of financial moves, the "Dubsites" were able to keep Perkasie Park in 1889 after losing much of their property nationwide to the Majority faction (led by two rival bishops) in courts around the nation. During the internal battle, Dubs appeared at the 1888 camp meeting, but heavy rains on camp meeting Sunday kept crowds down to an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 for the day.¹⁸ The largest recorded attendance for the camp meeting was in 1890, the last year that the Majority and Minority factions met at Perkasie Park as a unified group. The Doylestown *Daily Intelligencer* put the Sunday attendance at 23,000 people with between 1,500 and 2,000 teams of horses on the grounds or in town.¹⁹

Ongoing Operations of Perkasie Park

The camp meeting's popularity led to a second wave of cottages, including more two-story buildings, built between 1888 and 1893. Schwartz loaned the Association \$6,000 to finance the expansion, and then he sold his interest in the Park, leaving controlling interest in the hands of church leaders. Newspapers reported 30 cottages and 42 tents on the grounds in 1888, with most paid and built by the Association. There were 42 cottages by 1890, and about 60 cottages in 1891, including a new row of 11 cottages built by the Association behind the Auditorium and preacher's stand. In 1893, the association built six new cottages on the north end of the Park, and added a large dormitory, a dining hall, and a refreshment stand.²⁰

During the summertime camp meeting period, Perkasie Park hosted large meetings of all types, from religious and pastoral assemblies to family reunions and meetings of other religious groups. The Park also benefited from the presence of Menlo Park, a

¹⁷ "Perkasie Camp Meeting Closed." *Doylestown Daily Intelligencer*, August 10, 1887. "The aggregate number of people visiting the camp for the 10 days in session is put at the low calculation of 30,000. ... Last Sunday, 2,000 teams were hitched at the Park and the two hotels in town."

¹⁸ "Perkasie Park Camp-Meeting," *Perkasie Central News*, August 8, 1888. Newspaper notes that Dubs spoke on Saturday also to a crowd that numbered in the thousands.

¹⁹ "Perkasie Camp Meeting," *Doylestown Daily Intelligencer*, August 4, 1890. Eight services were held on the grounds between 5:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. It had rained the previous day, and the newspaper's correspondent reported that "long before preaching services were opened everything was one mass of human beings and teams."

²⁰ Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Perkasie Park Association, Volume I. (1882-1914). P. xx.

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tourist park in Perkasie, and the two parks were on the new Quakertown and Inland Traction Company trolley line that later operated the famous "Liberty Bell Trolley," which ran from Norristown to Allentown.

Perkasie Park added electric lights in 1900, and it was preparing to host a full slate of events in July 1900 when tragedy struck. On June 30, 19 cottages were destroyed in a fire. The Board met on July 3, 1900 and put a plan in place to rebuild. Newer bigger cottages would be built on the east side of the Park; others replaced the cottages that were lost. All of this was done by June 1901 for the next Park season. Though more cottages were added, the horseshoe plan of the Camp Meeting remained.²¹

Religious services at Perkasie Park were held in German and English until World War I. Although the Evangelical Association was founded as a denomination holding worship in German, the use of English increased as the 19th century progressed. By the 1890s, it appears that the majority of speakers at PPCM used English. Contemporary newspapers mentioned specific ministers who spoke in German. Interest in holding services in German continued, and in 1911 one day was set aside as "old folk's day" when the entire day's services were held in German. During these years, daily events began at 6:30 a.m. and ran throughout the day (interspersed with breaks), with the last speaker beginning at 8 p.m.²²

Until 1924, the regional camp meetings of the Dubs faction of the Evangelical Association were held at Perkasie Park, along with an annual assembly of clergy, and youth camp activities in the summer. The camp meeting and clergy assembly were held in July, often consecutively, and the Park was expanded and updated to handle the crowds. The Park had boarding facilities on site and an expanded dining hall. The Park also hosted other events like local school graduations, Sunday school services, and family reunions. There were also public concerts in the Auditorium.

Trolley service was expanded with the Lehigh Valley group adding Liberty Bell Trolley service at the Park in 1911. The Association granted the trolley company a right of way access through its property, and a Liberty Bell trolley shelter was constructed on the east side of the property just north of its bridge over Ninth Street.

²¹ "Fire Swept Perkasie Park," *Perkasie Central News*, July 2, 1900. Volunteers from Menlo Park and park residents saved the auditorium by scaling the roof and pouring buckets of water on the smoldering surface.

²² *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7/15/1896, 7/26-27/1897, 7/26/1911. Traditionally, German-language services were held in a temporary structure called the Tabernacle.

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The Assembly and Summer Camp period (1925-1947)

In 1922, the two factions of the Evangelical church (from the division of 1887-1894) ended the split and reunited. Church leadership made the decision to consolidate the annual camp meeting to Highland Park in Sellersville after the 1924 season, while the assembly of pastors stayed in Perkasie. In addition, Perkasie Park was given three age-level summer camps by the new Evangelical Church.

The Park Association had formed an Athletic Association in 1919 just before the church reunited to coordinate the considerable social activities at the Park. Athletic Association board minutes from the early 1920s show the huge effort it took to organize, feed and maintain a campus with many visitors. The Athletic Association played a major role in maintaining the use of Perkasie Park, bringing in community members for various sports events. In 1925, the Park Association funded another expansion, expanding its dining hall, and adding new athletic facilities such as a baseball field and tennis courts. For the next 23 years, the Park held regular fellowship activities (including church services under the auspices of the Evangelical Church several times a week during the summer) while maintaining its secular-oriented activities such as sports events and concerts.

Since its founding, the Park's "cottagers" had maintained a close relationship with the town of Perkasie, where they shopped for food, bought clothes and socialized. The Park Auditorium hosted civic activities, including the Borough's annual Decoration Day services, public school graduation and religious-based concerts. This era started to slowly end in the late 1940s, when the Evangelical Church merged with the United Brethren In Christ to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB). As a result of the merger, Perkasie Park lost part of its summer camp attendance to other groups in the new church. Also at this time the nearby Menlo Park tourist park closed and the town of Perkasie began to see a change in its downtown area as trolley service ended in 1951 and the use of automobile expanded.

The modern era (1948-2014)

As the 1960s started, the cottagers, the shareholders and their families inherited the legacy of keeping Perkasie Park alive. The EUB took a passive role in the Park, although it maintained a board seat and was a large stockholder. The EUB decided to end its summer camps at the Park by the mid-1960s, which meant an end to its financial support of the Park. Then in 1968 the EUB participated in a denominational merger that created the United Methodist Church.

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After the mid-1960s, cottagers who wanted to stay in the Park had to find a way to maintain it. Fortunately most had a deep commitment to its survival. Some grew up in the Park as children; others stayed at the Park for the same reasons people did in the early 1890s – they came from Philadelphia and other urban areas and enjoyed Perkasie Park as a getaway. In fact the Park found a way to remain open and thrive for the next 56 years, through responsible fiscal management, volunteer work and a strong community that has kept many traditions dating back to the camp meeting days. The one significant loss in recent years was the collapse of the historic dining hall in 1996 after a major snowstorm; parts of the building were salvaged but most of it was lost. A new, albeit smaller dining hall was built in its place.

In 1982, the Park celebrated its official 100 year anniversary, and it had its 125th birthday in 2007. Currently, Perkasie Park has 60 cottages, all owned by Perkasie Park Association members. The historic auditorium is used regularly for summer religious services. The cottager experience of earlier decades survives in a slightly modified form in the original setting of the camp meeting. It continues to be a quiet, ecumenical-based retreat that welcomes cottagers and visitors alike to relax and worship under the Park's forest canopy every summer.

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Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
Name of Property

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"For A Big Camp Meeting." *Philadelphia Inquirer*. 7/29/1890.
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"Knights of Malta to Gather in Perkasie." *Philadelphia Inquirer*. 5/7/1911.
"Six Thousand At Clan Gathering." *Philadelphia Inquirer*. 9/1/1912.

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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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 #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Perkasie Park Camp Meeting private archives, Perkasie, PA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20.6

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18T | Easting: 474671 | Northing: 4469202 |
| 2. Zone: 18T | Easting: 474687 | Northing: 4469697 |
| 3. Zone: 18T | Easting: 474039 | Northing: 4469663 |
| 4. Zone: 18T | Easting: 474032 | Northing: 4469224 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the south point of tax parcel 33-2-29 and proceeding clockwise. The point of beginning is located in the centerline of South Ninth Street. From there, the boundary runs northwest in three courses 880 feet to a point, thence northeast in two courses 107 feet, thence northwest in three courses 660 feet to a point; thence northeast 30 feet, southeast 25 feet, and northeast 68 feet to the northernmost point of the property.

From there, the boundary proceeds eastsoutheast in three courses 500 feet, thence northeast 29 feet, then southeast in two courses 343 feet, then northeast 207 feet and southeast 650 feet to a point in the centerline of South Ninth Street. From there, the boundary runs southwest down

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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the centerline of the street in two courses 794 feet to the point of beginning. The boundary encompasses 20.6 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary encompasses the historic property boundary, which includes the developed heart of the camp meeting and the surrounding woodlands to the northwest and the open lawns to the southeast. No resources historically associated with PPCM have been excluded from the boundary. The eastern boundary includes portions of the elevated bed of the Liberty Bell Trolley running along that side.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robert Wise and Seth Hinshaw
organization: Wise Preservation Planning LLC
street & number: 1480 Hilltop Road
city or town: Chester Springs state: PA zip code: 19425
e-mail: bwise@wisepres.com telephone: (484) 202-8187
date: 7/1/2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
City or Vicinity: Perkasie County: Bucks State: PA
Photographer: Robert J. Wise Jr.
Date Photographed: 6/13/2014; 4/17/2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
Name of Property

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- Photo 1 of 21. Auditorium, facing west
- Photo 2 of 21. View of cottages along southwest side of commons, facing west.
- Photo 3 of 21. Cottages at west corner of commons, main elevation, facing southwest.
- Photo 4 of 21. Cottages at north end of commons, facing north.
- Photo 5 of 21. Cottages along northeast side of commons, facing north.
- Photo 6 of 21. "Dutch Corner," cottage #33, facing south.
- Photo 7 of 21. Cottages on northwest side of commons, facing northwest.
- Photo 8 of 21. "Three Oaks," cottage #23, facing south.
- Photo 9 of 21. "Sunshine," cottage #8, facing north.
- Photo 10 of 21. Rear of cottages along southwest side of commons, facing north. The two cottages on the left are the same cottages shown in Photo 3.
- Photo 11 of 21. Library / Refreshment Stand, facing east.
- Photo 12 of 21. Pavilion, facing west.
- Photo 13 of 21. North elevation of Auditorium.
- Photo 14 of 21. Interior of Auditorium, facing southeast.
- Photo 15 of 21. Sign for PPCM at entrance.
- Photo 16 of 21. North half of commons area, facing north from the Auditorium.
- Photo 17 of 21. Distelfink (#48) and Glenn (#47), facing west.
- Photo 18 of 21. Woodlyne Cottage (#27), facing north.
- Photo 19 of 21. Sunnyside Cottage (#16), facing east.
- Photo 20 of 21. "Seventh Heaven" Cottage (#7), facing north.
- Photo 21 of 21. Dining Hall (NC), facing SW.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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Inventory

Note that the inventory Resource # provided in the table below is intended to match a prior version of the camp meeting map; there are no Resource items that correspond to numbers 51, 57, 58, or 64-70, or 76.

Res. #	Name(s)	Resource Type	Current/Historic Function	Style or Influences	Date	C/NC
1	Oaklyn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
2	Hosana	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
3	Meadow View	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
4	Green Gables	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
5	The Maples	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
6	Pine Tree / Waldheim	Building	Single dwelling	Bungalow	1901	C
7	Fairview / Seventh Heaven	Building	Single dwelling	Queen Anne	1901	C
8	Sunshine	Building	Single dwelling	American Foursquare	1901	C
9	Cozy Corner	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
10	Morning Sun	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1901	C
11	Shady View	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889	C
12	Wood Cliff	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1889	C
13	Marantha	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
14	Country Corner	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
15	Koffee Kup	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
16	Sunnyside	Building	Single dwelling	Folk Victorian	1901	C
17	Shangra-La	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
18	Rest-a-bit Inn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
19	White Lodge	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1924	C
20	Idlewild	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
21	Maplehurst	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1901	C
22	Buena Vista	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	NC
23	Three Oaks	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
24	Summer of '76	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
25	Viola's Inn	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1901	C
26	Hillside	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1901	C
27	Woodlyne	Building	Single dwelling	Second Empire	1900	C
28	Hillcrest	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
29	Janet	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	NC
30	Sanctuary	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
31	Scenic View	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
32	Lodging House (Dormitory)	Building	Single dwelling/ multiple dwelling	No Style	1888	C
33	Dutch Corner	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
34	Liberty	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
35	Beryl	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
36	Dew Drop Inn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
37	Justus	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
38	Covered Bridge	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
39	Valley Green	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
40	Ivy	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C
41	Grace	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1888	C

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Res.#	Name(s)	Resource Type	Current/Historic Function	Style or Influences	Date	C/NC
42	Avon	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
43	Oak View	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
44	Rainbow Cottage	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
45	Blue Jay / Enchantment	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1892	C
46	Calico Inn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
47	Glenn	Building	Single dwelling	Folk Victorian	1887	C
48	Fern Rock / Distelfink	Building	Single dwelling	Folk Victorian	1887	C
49	Tiny Lodge / Genesis	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1887-9	C
50	Lily of the Valley	Building	Single dwelling	Folk Victorian	1887-9	C
52	Lone Oak	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
53	Delaware	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
54	La Verne	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1889-92	C
55	Bell / Black Hottie	Building	Single dwelling	Late Victorian	1889-92	C
56	Allison	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
59	Duck Inn / Relax-Inn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
60	Bide-a-wee / Enjoy-Inn	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
61	Last Resort	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
62	Escondido	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1889-92	C
63	Happy Haven	Building	Single dwelling	No Style	1920s	C
71	Auditorium	Building	Religious facility, lectures, concerts, gatherings	No Style	1884-7	C
72	Pavilion	Building	Meeting location/ Storage	No Style	c.1920	C
73	Storage Building	Building	Storage	No Style	c.1920	C
74	Dining Hall	Building	Dining Hall	No Style	1997	NC
75	Refreshment Stand	Building	Refreshment stand & Library	No Style	1886-7	C
76	Storage Shed/ Garages	Building	Storage	No Style	c.1920	C
78	Water Pump	Object	Not in use	No Style	c.1920	C
79	Obelisk	Object	NA	No Style	c.1920	C
80	Water Reservoir Tank	Structure	Not in use	No Style	c.1920	C

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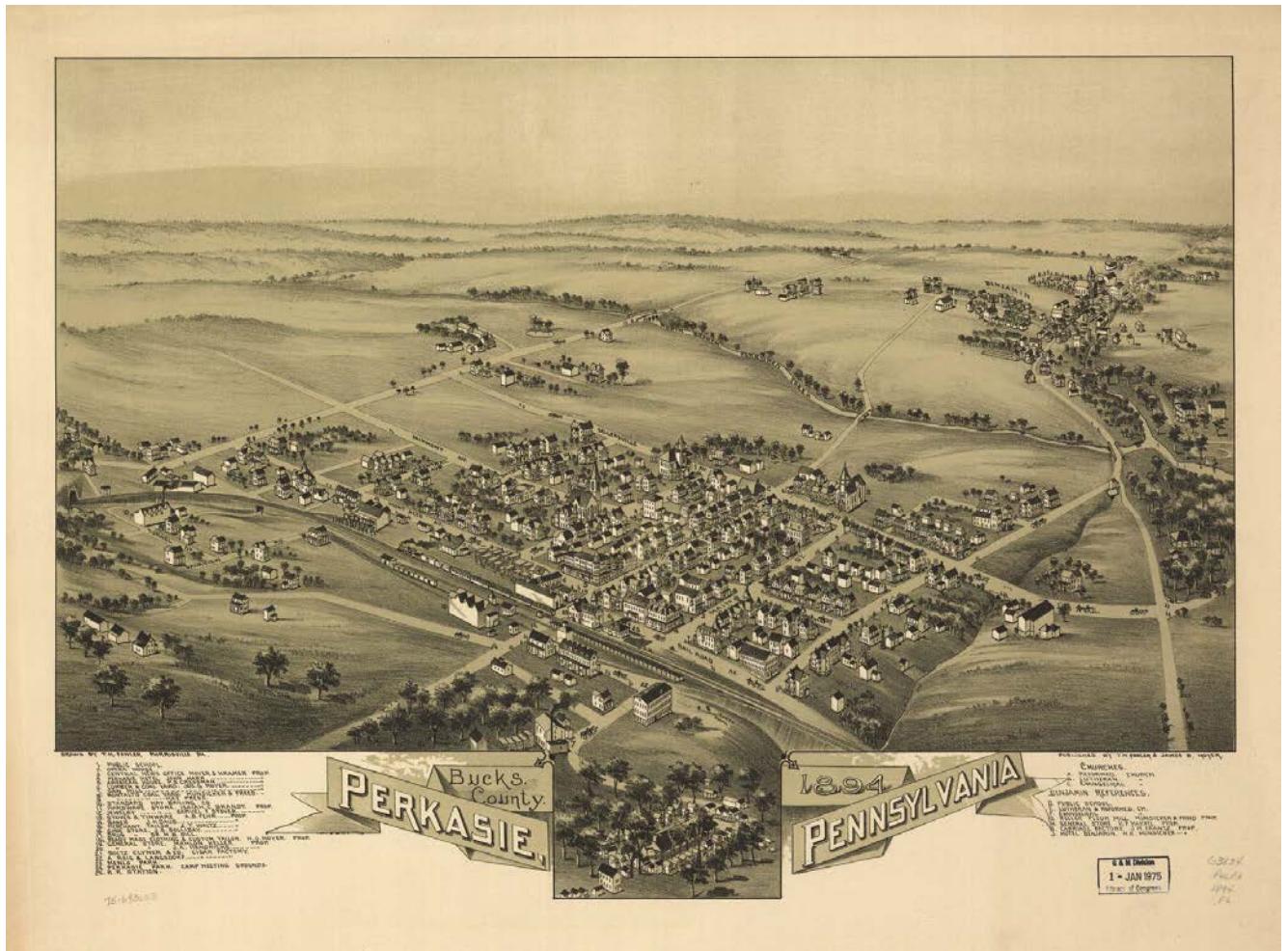


Figure 1. Balloon View of Perkasie, Pennsylvania, dated 1894. The camp meeting is shown in the lower center (detail on following page).

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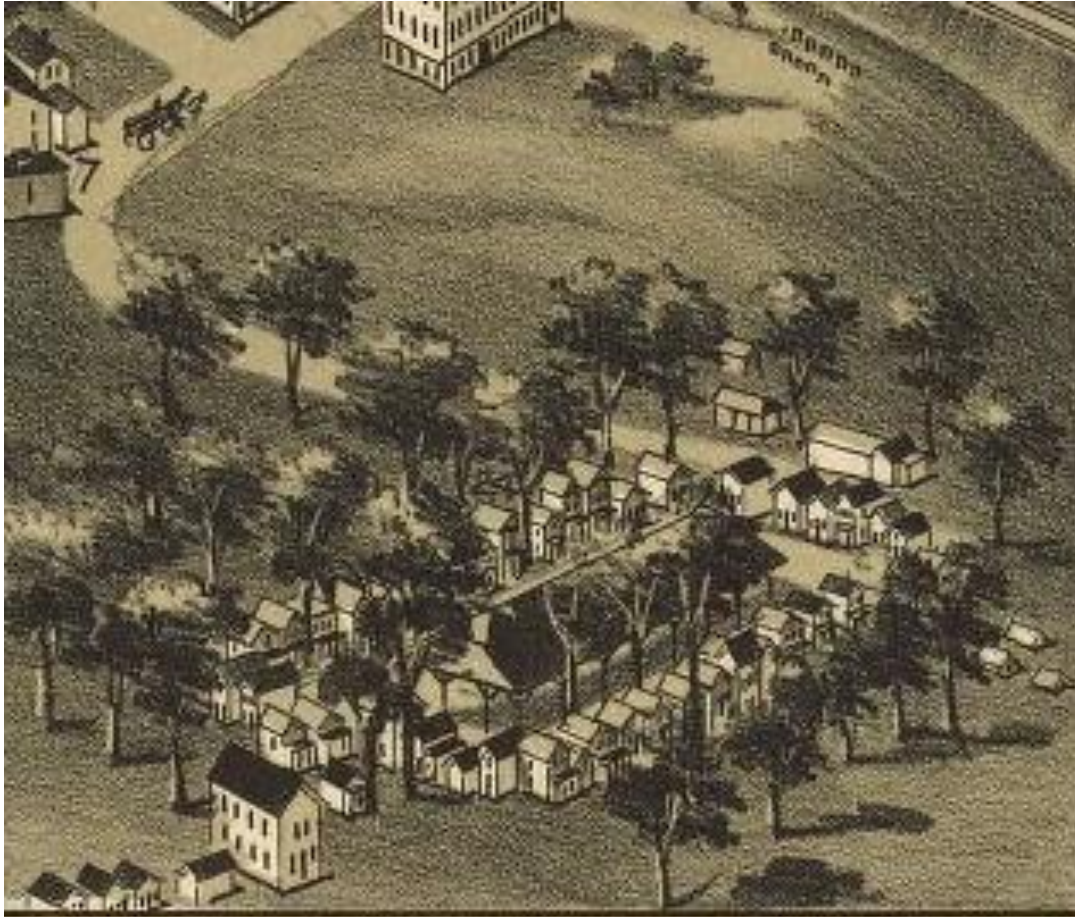


Figure 2. Detail of the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting as depicted on the 1894 balloon view of Perkasie, Pennsylvania. Note: this balloon view appears to be stylized and out of scale, with the Auditorium occupying the entire commons area. The original entrance in the upper left was shifted after the Liberty Bell Trolley was laid out in the right background.

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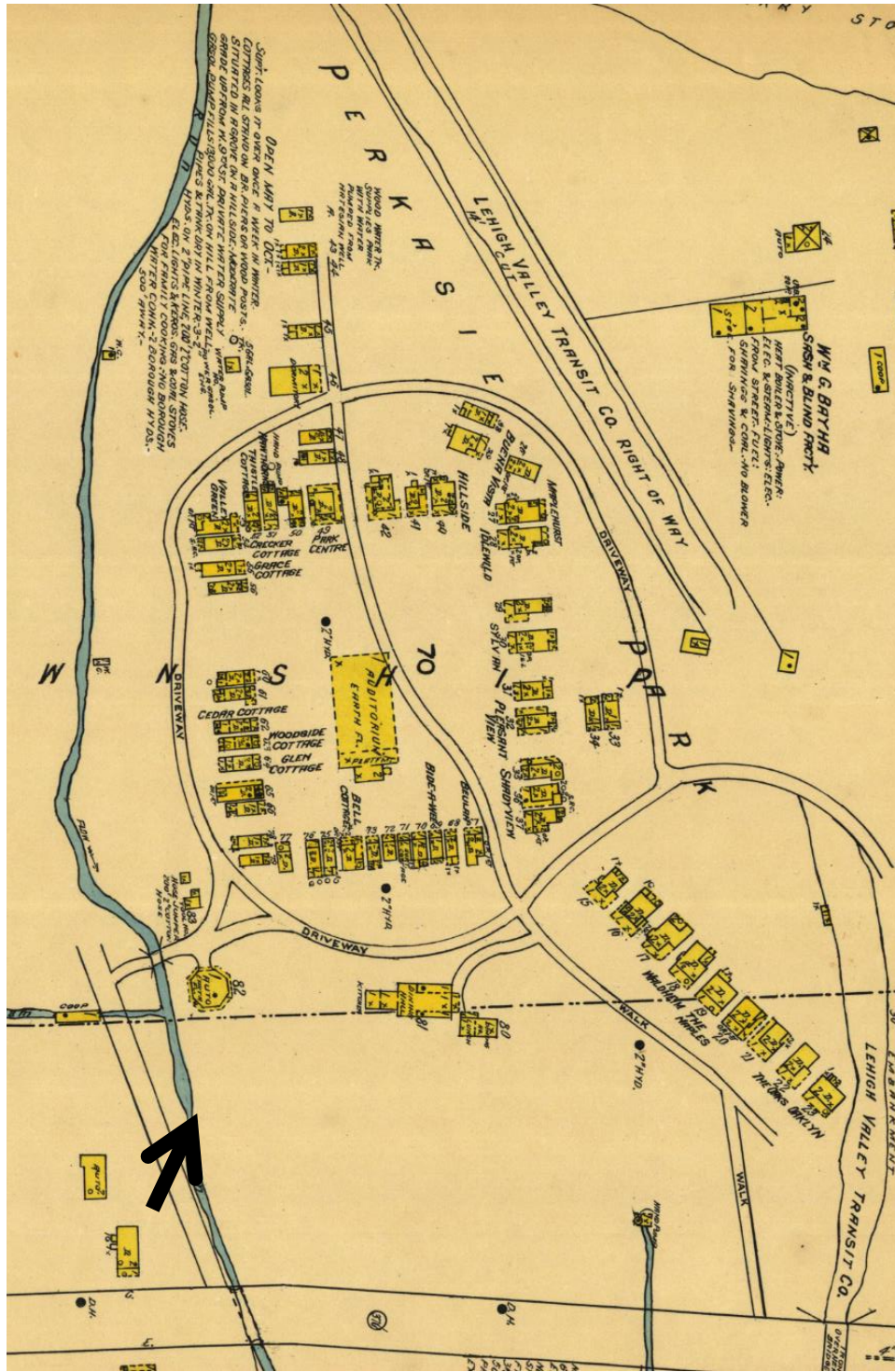


Figure 3. Detail of the Perkasio Park Camp Meeting as depicted on the Sanborn atlas for Perkasio (1921).

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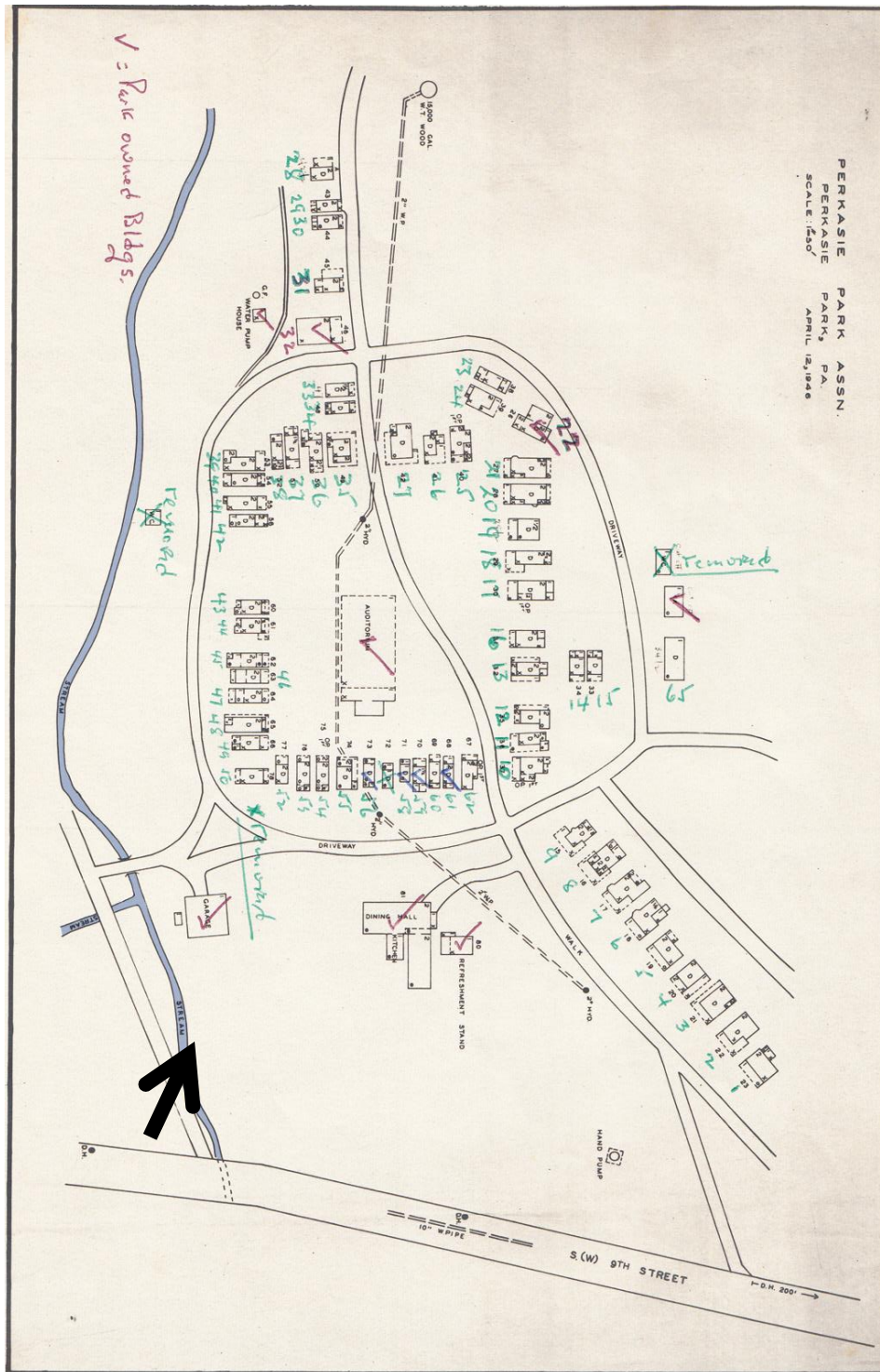


Figure 4. Map of Perkasio Park Camp Meeting, produced in 1971. Markings in color represent more recent notations.

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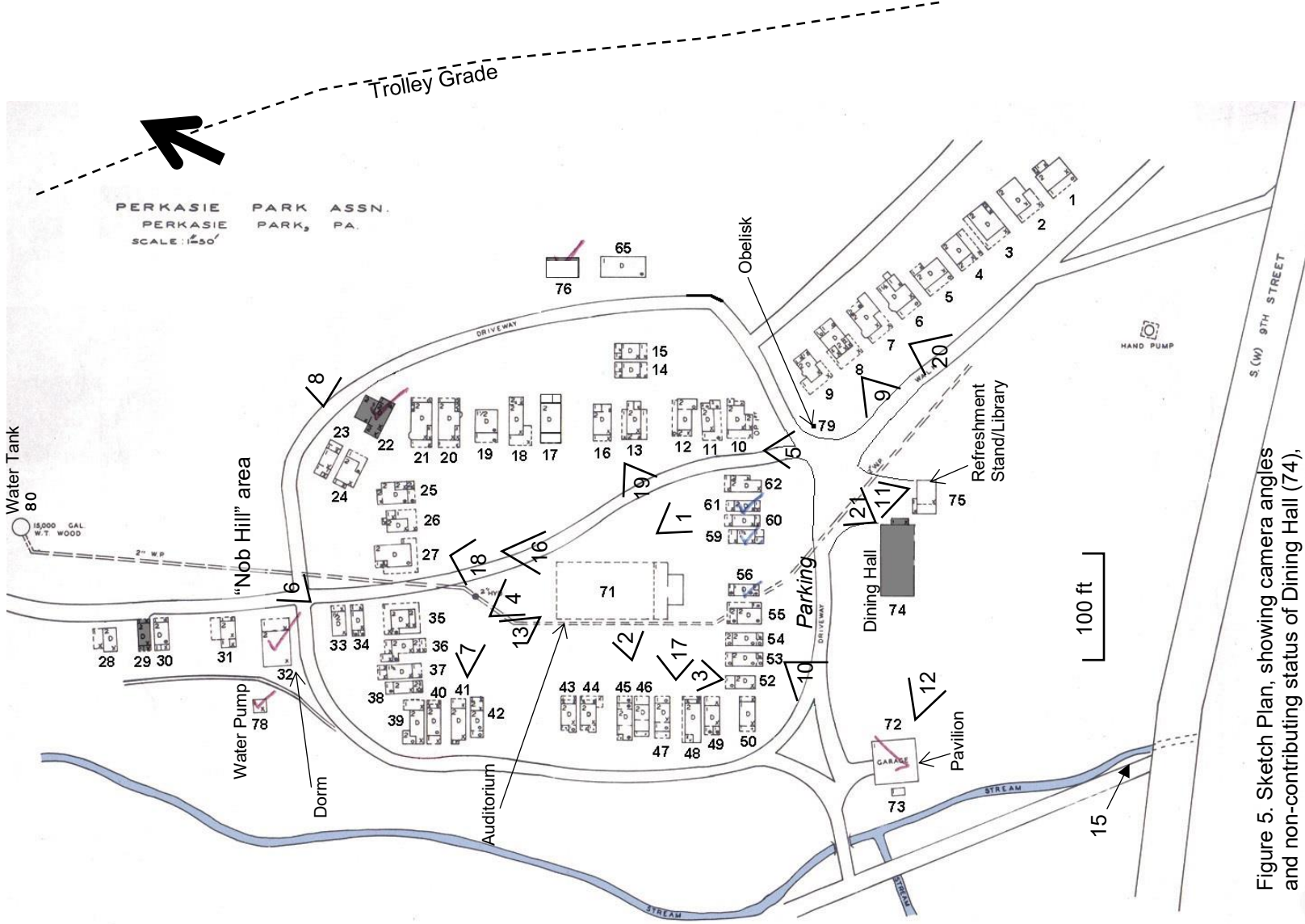


Figure 5. Sketch Plan, showing camera angles and non-contributing status of Dining Hall (74), and cottages 22 and 29.

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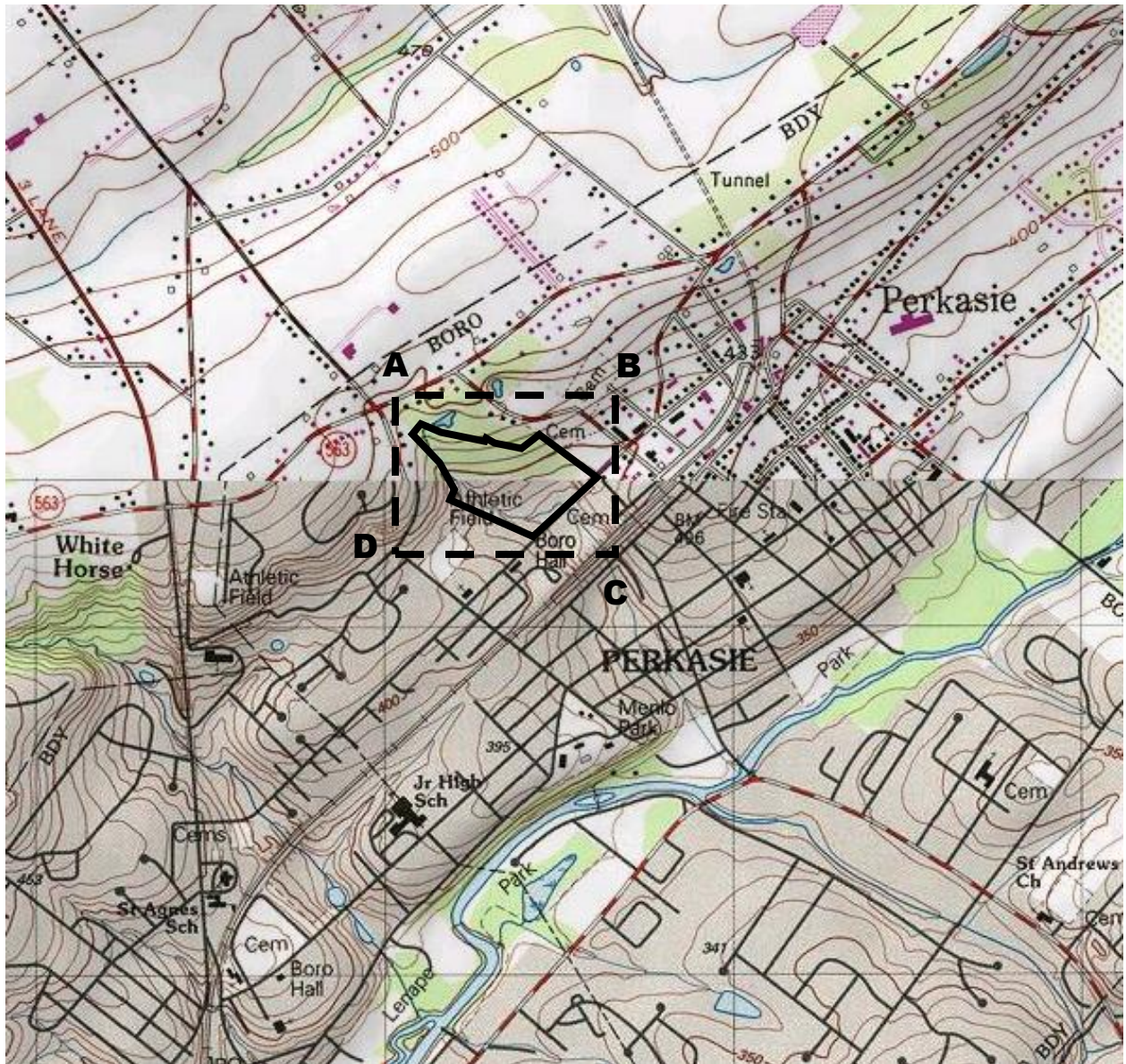


Figure 6. Detail of Quakertown USGS Quad (upper portion) and Telford USGS Quad (lower). The Perkasio Park Camp Meeting spans the two quad maps.

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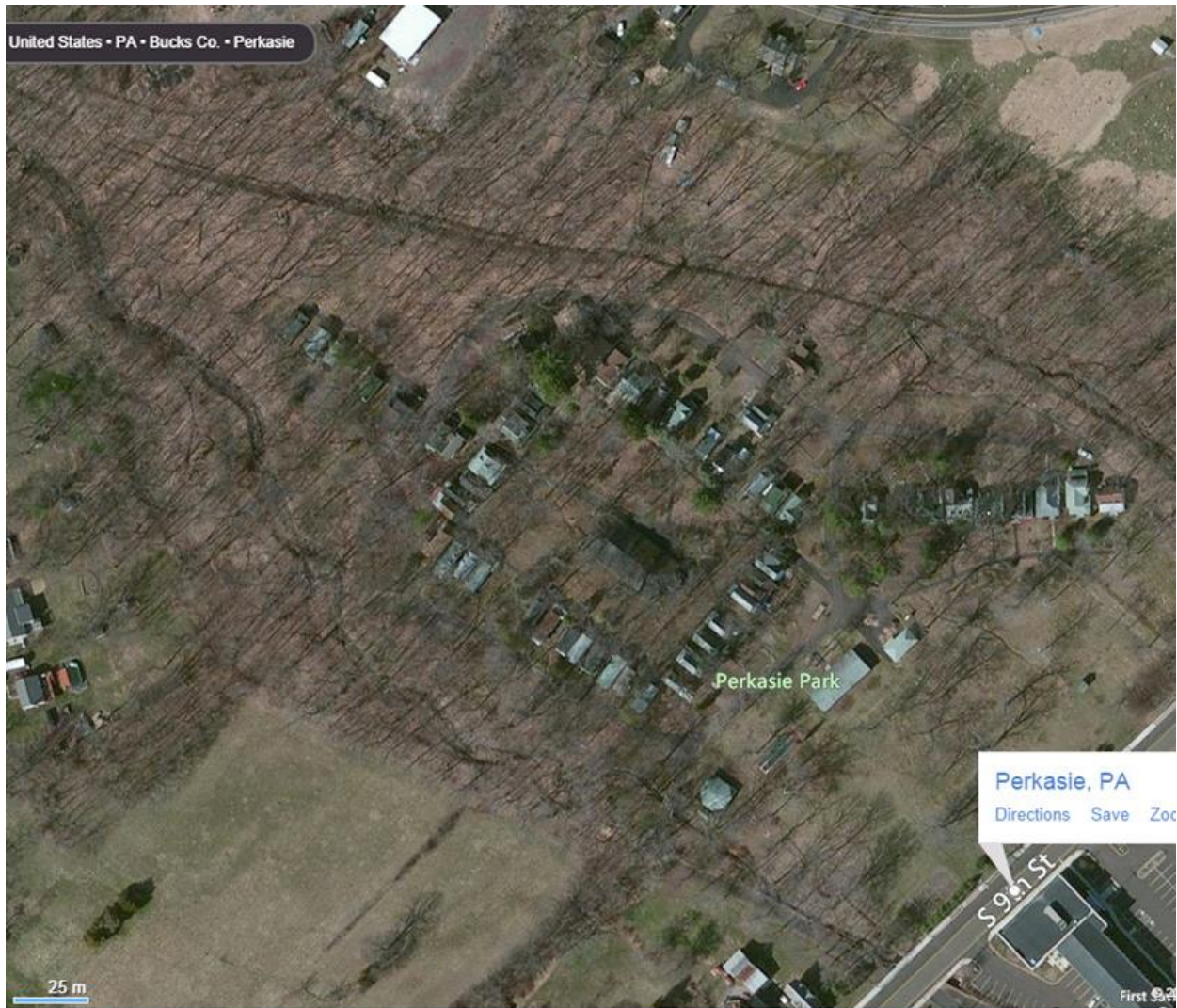


Figure 7. Recent Aerial of Perkasie Park Camp Meeting, adapted from Bing Maps (2016).

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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Figure 8. Aerial of the Perkasie Park Camp Meeting, showing the property boundary overlaid onto a Google Map (2016).

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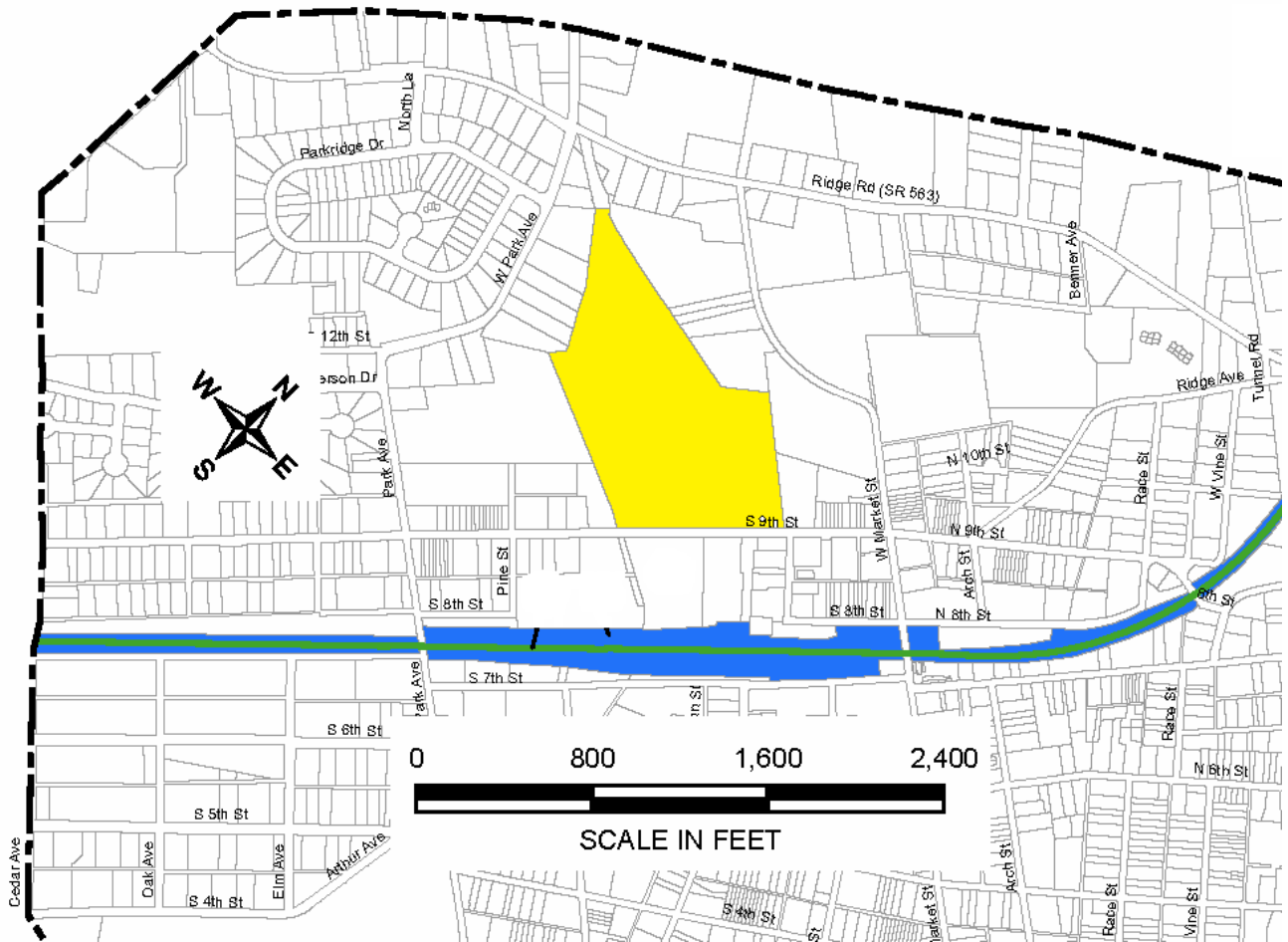


Figure 9. Tax parcel map, adapted from the Perkasie municipal comprehensive plan (2012).

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Photo 1. Auditorium, facing west



Photo 2. View of cottages along southwest side of commons, facing west.

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Photo 3. Cottages at west corner of commons, main elevation, facing southwest.



Photo 4. Cottages at north end of commons, facing north.

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Photo 5. Cottages along northeast side of commons, facing north.



Photo 6. "Dutch Corner," cottage #33, facing south.

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Photo 7. Cottages on northwest side of commons, facing northwest.



Photo 8. "Three Oaks," cottage #23, facing south.

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Photo 9. "Sunshine," cottage #8, facing north.



Photo 10. Rear of cottages along southwest side of commons, facing north. The two cottages on the left are the same cottages shown in Photo 3.

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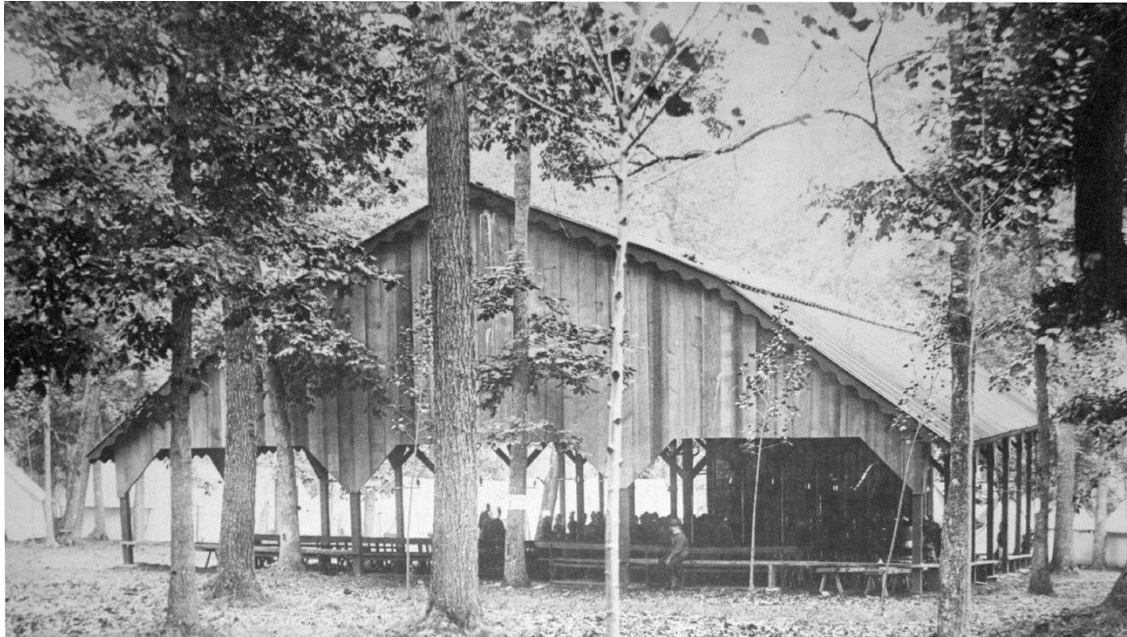
Photo 11. Library / Refreshment Stand, facing east.



Photo 12. Pavilion, facing west.

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Historic photo of the northwest elevation of the Auditorium from the PPCM archives. The photo dates between 1884 and 1887.



Photo 13. North elevation of Auditorium.

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Photo 14. Interior of Auditorium, facing southeast.



Photo 15. Sign for PPCM at entrance.

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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Photo 16. North half of commons area, facing north from the Auditorium.



Photo 17. Distelfink (#48) and Glenn (#47), facing west.

Perkasie Park Camp Meeting
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Photo 18. Woodylyne Cottage (#27), facing north.



Photo 19. Sunnyside Cottage (#16), facing east.

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Photo 20. "Seventh Heaven" Cottage (#7), facing north.



Photo 21. Dining Hall (NC), facing SW.





RELAX-IN

WELCOME















SUNSHINE



55

MARILYN



HILLY ANN
WESTA
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP







PERKASIE PARK
1882 125th Anniversary 2007



ESTABLISHED

1882

PERKASIE
PARK

2005.9TH

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FOR SALE
BY OWNER

6



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Perkasio Park Camp Meeting

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Bucks

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/30/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000571

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 8/29/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Patricia Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 8/29/2016

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.

150 Grandview Drive
Ivyland, Penna. 18974
Januray 4, 2016



Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Acting Director
State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Ms. MacDonald:


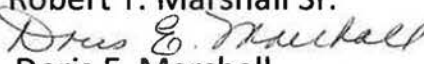
SUB: Perkasie Park Camp Meeting – February 2, 2016

We are thrilled our Perkasie Park has been nominated for the National Historic Register.

We have been owners of a cottage at the Park for 21 years. The beautiful Victorian style homes and buildings are just exquisite. Each home has its own personality that blends in with its surroundings.

Over the years there have been many wonderful events, gatherings and religious services so unique to our area. We would be hard pressed to duplicate such a well kept beautiful Park for our grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy.

Your acceptance for the National Register of Historic Places will help us to continue to maintain such a wonderful Park for the future of our families and nearby residents.

Yours truly,

Robert T. Marshall Sr.

Doris E. Marshall

dew

The Perkasio Park Association

Chartered in 1882

January 15, 2016

Andrea MacDonald
Acting Bureau Director / Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Andrea:

On behalf of the Perkasio Park Association, I would like to thank the Historic Preservation Board for its consideration of Perkasio Park at its February 2, 2016 meeting in Harrisburg. As the Park's President from 2013 to 2015, I've been working with Bob Wise at Wise Preservation on the application process for the past 18 months. It's been a great educational experience personally - so much so that I enrolled in the Bucks County Community College Historic Preservation program last year to learn more about preservation!

The Perkasio Park Association was formed in 1882 to run the Camp Meeting for the Evangelical Church in Upper Bucks County. Since then, it has survived two fires, four denominational changes, urban renewal and other challenges. As you'll see on our application, the Park has remained mostly intact from its period of significance.

Because the Perkasio Park Association has about 100 shareholders, we did a lot of outreach within the association and the community about the Historic Register process. At our annual 2014 shareholder meeting, with about 80 percent of folks voting, 99.6% of the voting shares approved the Park's Historic Register application. The following January, Perkasio Borough Council recognized Perkasio Park as the first structure ever designated as historic under its zoning code, after a public hearing. We've also held several highly attended open houses during this process and received a good amount of local press coverage.

The overwhelming local public support for our Historic Register project is encouraging, since our community has taken a passive role in historic preservation until recently. I'm hopeful that our success will lead to more interest in preservation as a public policy goal, as our community seeks a find a balance between development and conservation.

I hope to be at the February 2nd meeting if you have any questions, but I am sure Bob and April Frantz have addressed everything in a professional fashion. Please feel free to contact me at 215-527-1017 or at sbomboy@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Best regards,



Scott Bomboy
President, The Perkasio Park Activities Association



County of Bucks

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
55 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-6424



County Commissioners

Robert G. Loughery, *Chairman*
Charles H. Martin, *Vice Chair*
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, *LCSW*

January 15, 2016

Andrea MacDonald
Acting Bureau Director / Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Application of Perkasio Park Camp Meeting for National Register of Historic Places

Dear Director MacDonald:

We are writing to support the Perkasio Park Association nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

During its 133-year history, Perkasio Park has been the site of religious gatherings and camp meetings where as many as 10,000 people gathered. Its distinctive Victorian cottages, large pavilion, which is still used for nondenominational services, and its place in the cultural and religious history of Bucks County and the nation make this site a worthy and deserving addition to the Register.

Bucks County, a county which treasures its historic and cultural heritage, joins Perkasio Borough in fully supporting this application.

Respectfully,

Robert G. Loughery

Charles H. Martin

Diane Ellis-Marseglia



V16/16

Dear Andrea,

I have lived 6.7 miles from Perkasie Park all 52 years of my life and never knew it was there until I bought my cottage about 2 years ago. One look at the quaintness of the community and the wonderful fellow cottagers along with the many events throughout the season I'm hooked. It is like stepping back in time and I look forward to every Friday mid Day - Monday morning during season to relax & enjoy on my cottage porch or someone else's. The cottages are old but all so charming and each different. Many of us will have ~~constant~~ constant projects but always have time for a chat or to help a neighbor. The neat part about this bit

of history is after 133 years it is
still an active community with great
people with common interests for
simplicity to a new crazy outside life.
Once you drive across the bridge the
stress lessens and the slow pace takes
place.

Take care + maybe stop by
sometime and see for yourself.

Wanda Meyer
Cottage 60

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
8TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2400 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4276
FAX: (202) 225-9511

COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1717 LANGHORNE NEWTOWN ROAD, SUITE 400
LANGHORNE, PA 19047
(215) 579-8102
FAX: (215) 579-8109

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3808



January 20, 2016

Andrea MacDonald
Acting Bureau Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

I write to you in support of the Perkasie Park Association's application to be considered for designation in the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.

As you know, listing in the National Register provides recognition of a property's historic importance and assures review of federally funded or permitted projects that might impact the historic character of the property. If the property is listed, certain federal tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Perkasie Park has played a vital role in the history of Perkasie Borough, Bucks County and our Commonwealth since its inception in 1882. Established as a religious camp meeting on 22-acres, the park has survived devastating fires, denominational changes and rapid growth of the surrounding area. Today, the park and its 60 Victorian cottages remain a centerpiece of Perkasie's community and a source of immense pride.

In the Perkasie Park Association's application, 99.6% of voting shareholders approved the effort to seek Historic Register designation. Additionally, highlighting the ongoing importance of the park's history to the borough, Perkasie Borough Council recognized Perkasie Park as the first structure ever designated as "Historic" under its zoning code.

It is with this in mind, I respectfully request the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office give the application submitted by the Perkasie Park Association full and fair consideration. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

CRAIG T. STAATS, Member
145th Legislative District

Harrisburg Office
Room 412, Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202145
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2145
Phone: (717) 783-3154
Fax: (717) 260-6521

District Office
10 South Third Street
Quakertown, PA 18951
Phone: (215) 536-1434
Fax: (215) 536-1437



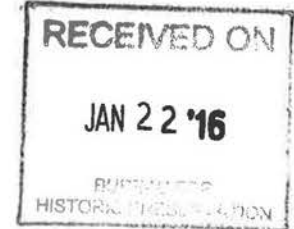
House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

January 20, 2016

Committees
Aging & Older Adult Services
Commerce
Education
Human Services

e-mail: cstaats@pahousegop.com
website: repstaats.net



Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Acting Director, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Perkasio Park Association's application to be considered for designation in the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.

As you know, listing in the National Register provides the property with certain federal tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions that may apply.

Perkasie Park has played a vital role in the Borough of Perkasie, Bucks County and our Commonwealth since its inception in 1882. The camp was first established as a religious camp on 22 acres. Perkasie Park of today and the 60 Victorian cottages are the centerpiece of the Perkasie Community.

In conclusion, I fully support and respectfully request that you give the application submitted by the Perkasie Park Association your full and fair consideration. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig T. Staats".

CRAIG T. STAATS
PA House of Representative
145th Legislative District
Bucks County

CTS/dlz

Jan. 25 2016

Dear Alice

I'm writing to tell you a bit about Perkasié Park. In 1997 our good friends Doris an Bob Marshall started telling my husband an I all about there cottage they owned in Perkasié Park Well I was so excited, I just keep asking questions one after another. So Doris said why don't you both come up to our cottage on may 30th for a cook out, I just couldn't wait! That day came an we took that ride to there cottage. Oh as soon as I walked into this charming cottage I fell in love with it. Of course the first thing was there any for sale? Bob Marshall said yes there are a few an he said I am the superintendent an I can show you. To my surprise the cottage #4 right next door was for sale. That day we looked at many but that cottage #4 right next door I was instantly in love with it, Started taking pictures of every room an thinking where I would be putting all my things. Even the nail's were still on the walls where people most likely hung there cloths. To this day the nails are still there.

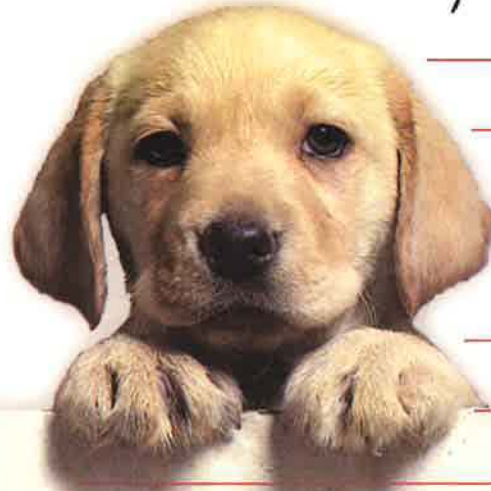
I am totally in love with "Victorian" so my mind would not shut down. But the summer went by and we didn't ^{buy} that cottage, my husband and I talked about it a lot so we decided to call our friends to see if that Cottage #4 was still for sale, wow it was! So on Sept Labor Day 1997 we bought my dream house, I must say it certainly takes you back in time. We only live 30 miles from our cottage but it's a summer get away so darling and peaceful. That first summer of 98 I had the first Victorian tea party in the back yards of four cottages. The parties were a huge success but the weather became a problem (rain) so after a few outside we decided to have the tea parties in our dining hall. So far there has been many Victorian tea parties along with many events throughout the entire summer!

Perkasie Park is very special to all of us who have a Cottage and believe that it would be an honor should Perkasie Park be considered as Historical and Placed on the National Register of Historic Places

Thank you
Sincerely
Louise Forgiione &
Charles Forgiione

Irene Knickerbocker

Perbasie Park is a Historic Place.
I'm old 133 yrs. I am in my seventys.
Have good times with friends at Cottage.
This place to go and relax and we spend.
We have picnics we all bring something
We all have fun together.



Cottage 59
Irene Knickerbocker

© Alfredo Schaufelberger, 2010
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Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

June 30, 2016

Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Paupack School, Wayne County; Perkasio Park Camp Meeting, Bucks County; and Progress
Lighting Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, National Register nominations

Dear Ms. Toothman:

Enclosed please find three National Register nominations for your review. Included are signed first pages, CDs containing the true and correct copy of the nominations, and CDs with tif images. Copies of correspondence are enclosed as well.

The proposed action for each nomination is listing in the National Register. Our staff and Historic Preservation Board members support these nominations. If you have any questions please contact April Frantz at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of these properties.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald, Director
State Historic Preservation Office

enc.

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency