Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

# 1 NAME

HISTORIC

PETERS VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

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	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		TRANSPORTATION
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# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT \_\_XGOOD \_\_FAIR \_\_DETERIORATED \_\_RUINS \_\_UNEXPOSED UNALTERED

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peters Valley Historic District consists of a group of about twenty buildings - houses, barns, a store, a church and graveyard, and several outbuildings - clustered around the intersection of four country roads in Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey, approximately 3.1 miles north of Walpack Center. The village is situated at the head of the Flat Brook Valley, proper, near the intersection of the Big and Little Flat Brooks. Its location has played an important part in its historical develop-South of the settlement, the Flat Brook runs through a ment. narrow valley between the Kittatinny Ridge on the east, and a smaller ridge on the west known as Pompey's Ridge, which separates the valley from that of the Delaware River. To the southeast, Culver's Gap pierces the Kittatinny Ridge and leads to the interior of New Jersey. To the north, along the Little Flat Brook, several small depressions give access to the Delaware River at Dingman's Ferry Pennsylvania and Montague, New Jersey.

At first glance, Peters Valley seems to differ very little, if at all, from any of the half dozen or so other small settlements (Millbrook, Flatbrookville, Walpack Center, Layton, Hainesville and Montague) into whose class it falls - that of the small, nineteenth century rural service center - which dot the New Jersey Minisink section of the Upper Delaware Valley. On closer inspection, it displays a subtly greater architectural variety then any of the others. Peters Valley has a muted air of sophistication about it that can only be partly explained by its current use (see below). In the dozen or so important buildings in the village, which span virtually the length of the nineteenth century in their construction dates, each of the century's popular architectural styles makes its appearance, rendered in the homegrown materials and vernacular adaptations that were available everywhere in a backcountry society. This bringing together of cosmopolitan styles and local adaptations is indicative of an unusual degree of penetration of worldly consciousness into a village society. Τt sets Peters Valley apart from its neighbors.

The village currently houses the Peters Valley Craftsmen, a cooperative program run by a group of persons practicing a variety of hand and tool crafts, and the National Park Service, which administers the site as part of the Delaware Water Gap National

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#### SPECIFIC DATES

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**8 SIGNIFICANCE** 

The village of Peters Valley owes its existence, as well as its persistent, if unspectacular vitality, to its strategic location at the head of the main stem of the Flat Brook Valley (see Description). At this place, the fixedness of geography combined with the changing needs of society, and its technological means of meeting them, to give the settlement a slightly larger and more complex role than those of the other service centers in the region. In the process, they rewarded it with a somewhat longer active life expectancy than the others, and endowed it with the unusual diversity of building types and architectural styles that is its most distinguishing characteristic, and the source of its enduring historic significance.

"The Corners", or "Hensfoot Corners", as the site has continued to be known locally, despite its alternating designation by cartographers, bureaucrats and Postmasters General (Peters Valley, Bevans, and then Peters Valley again), has always been accessible from a variety of directions. As a result, in addition to serving the small ring of adjacent farms usual to the rural service center, it has lain in the path of travellers going north and south through the Flat Brook Valley, and east and west between the Delaware River and the interior of New Jersey, through nearby Culver's Gap.

The cultural influences that these outsiders carried with them, like so much invisible baggage, have affected the growth and development of Peters Valley in ways that can be perceived even today. Perhaps no building better symbolizes the complexity of the village's roles, and the internal diversity those roles must have fostered, than the so-called "Old Dutch Reformed Church", which, in the course of its century-and-a-half transition between the essentially local roles of a house of worship and a private residence, also served as a tavern, a hotel, and a dance hall. In each of the latter functions it would have brought strangers together with residents of Peters Valley, and in the process facilitated a constant exchange of ideas, techniques, perceptions and values, as well as material goods.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Dodd. John B. Classified Structure Field Inventory Report	
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Dodd, John B. <u>Classified Structure Field Inventory Reportures #64, 104, 104-A, 104-1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,13,14</u> 19. April, 1976.	, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10,
Souder, Norman M. <u>Historic Structures Report, Part 1:</u> Data Section on Historic Buildings in the DWGNRA.	1967. pp.
Snell, James P. (Compiler) History of Sussex and Warren Jorgov Philadelphia, Events & Peck, 1881, pp. 423-	Counties, New
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(See continuation sheet)	
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NAME / TITLE	
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE

Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. 1967, Federal. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters, Bushkill, Pennsylvania. CONTINUATION SHEET

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Recreation Area. This project serves the dual purposes of maintaining the architectural and historic integrity of the area, and keeping alive many of the skills which were carried on in the historic village, and associated with its development.

The structures and sites which contribute significantly to the historic integrity of the district include:

- 1. The <u>Peters Valley Store</u>: ca. 1840's. 2 story, stone gable end building. Patterned slate roof, late 19th century wooden porch and door. Loading door opening above porch recently glazed with plate glass. Low, 1 story concrete addition and loading ramp at the rear. Used as a display gallery and sales outlet for crafts village.
- 2. The <u>Old Dutch Reformed Church</u>: ca 1825. 2 story cut fieldstone. Radically altered throughout its history to serve its many uses: church, school, tavern, hotel, dance hall. Originally 1½ stories. Converted into a residence ca 1950. Stuccoed on upper floor.
- 3. The <u>Doremus House</u>: ca. late 19th century. 2 story gable facade house. Standing stone foundation, patterned slate roof, fashionable Victorian details, especially on the porch. Possibly built on the foundation of an earlier building. Serves as offices for crafts village.
- 4. The <u>McVoy House</u>: ca. 1850. 2 story clapboard, molded cornice & frieze. Original siding and cornerboards. Used as a residence.
- 5. The Angermann House: ca. 1840. 1½ story cottage, remodelled in late 19th century. Front and side porch added. Numerous interior details remain, such as wide floor boards, stairwell panelling and chair rails. Residence.

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- 6. The <u>Greek Revival House</u>: ca 1845. 3 bays, pedimented gable facade. Main floor gallery formed by enclosed second floor projection. Four boxed, panelled piers support massive square pillars. Detailing is not carried through on sides and rear. Interior has lavish details, including wide ceilings, massive doors.
- 7. The <u>Dutch Reformed Church</u>: ca. 1838. 3 bays, gable end facade, clapboard structure. Patterned slate roof. Interior has second floor gallery on three sides. Set at edge of village, surrounded on three sides by a large, landscaped graveyard.
- 8. The <u>Valley Brook Farm</u>: House, ca. 1860's. 2 story, five bay clapboard structure. Remodelled throughout its lifetime. Hewn timber frame barn on a stone foundation. Stone spring house, extensively altered. Complex on southern end of town, beyond Dutch Reformed Church, toward Walpack Center.
- 9. The <u>Upper Treible House</u>: ca. mid-19th century. 2 story, clapboard house. Surrounded on two sides by a partly open, partly enclosed porch. Extensive, non-compatible alterations throughout. Interior completely disorganized. Set on hilltop north of village. Used as dormitory and dining hall for crafts village.
- 10. The Lower Treible House: ca. 1900 Small, plain, 2 story frame house. Good example of turn of century country building technique. Decorative front porch posts, and small square stair window in side, rotated to diagonal position, distinguish the house. Residence.
- 11. The <u>Mitchell House</u>: Possibly ca. early 19th century. ca. 1860 changes and 20th century additions. Small, extended frame farmhouse. Victorian details throughout exterior. Rectangular bay window on facade. Classic Revival interior details.

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- 12. The <u>Robert Stoll House</u>: ca. 1812. Modest, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story cottage. Thoroughly modernized, ca. 1960's, with addition of shed dormers to roof, removal of interior trim, and insertion of large sliding glass door in rear stone wall.
- 13. The <u>Hilltop Farm</u>: House ca. late 18th, early 19th centuries, with many additions. Barn ca. 19th century cottage and guest house, ca. mid-20th century. A cluster of building which have all been extensively altered, both during late farm use, and for crafts village purposes. Serves later use well, but adds only marginally to historic scene. On hill, .2 miles NE of village center.

In addition to these historic structures, Peters Valley also contains several modern buildings, both residential and otherwise. While these buildings add nothing to the historic integrity of the scene, neither do they significantly detract from it, being proportionately few in number, and generally inconspicuous. The functional utility which they offer to the village in its current, and any conceivable future uses, more than outweigh their status as technical intrusions.

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By the architectural remains, we can infer that the course of the village's development was to some extent shaped by these intangible imports. The "Greek Revival House" is perhaps the most striking example of a style that can only have found its way into rural Northwestern New Jersey through an awareness of external developments unusual in a rural service center. The incompleteness of the detailing on the sides and rear of the building illustrate the unfamiliarity of the builders with the full implications of the styles they were using, but their awareness of the styles is the more impressive fact. The Greek Revival house, enough of a curiosity in Peters Valley, would be a wholly ludicrous element in neighboring Walpack Center, where a more splendid isolation prevailed throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, largely as a result of its more remote position in the center of a long, narrow valley. What makes the house plausible in Peters Valley, rescuing it from outright folly, and investing it with a touch of whimsicality, is the context: Its location among other buildings which combine elements of diverse cosmopolitan styles with enduring measures of country carpenter practicality.

The Doremus House, across the "Corners", is another good example of the prevalence of rustic eclecticism in Peters Valley. The treatment of the porchwork and the windows shows the restrained sophistication which could be achieved with Victorian woodcut details, delicately applied to an essentially practical shape: The two story, gable facade village house.

In other instances, it is not necessary to fit a structure into a uniform stylistic tradition to appreciate this eclecticism. The significant incidence of a diversity of details within a single house over a period of decades, rather than between adjacent buildings, is a good example of this phenomenon. The Mitchell House partakes of two historically separated traditions; Classic revivalism on the interior, and a muted Victorianism on the outside.

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Ultimately, the isolated fact that the residents of one rural center - in this case, Peters Valley - lived in architecturally diverse, and, from a cosmopolitan point of view, "interesting" structures, while their neighbors three miles down the road in Walpack lived in sturdy, but repetitively plain ones, matters very little. What is important, for the purpose of understanding the history of the region as a whole, is the implication contained in the fact. The fact of architectural diversity in Peters Valley testifies to the presumed existence of social complexity in that community. Likewise, the juxtaposition of settlements that are plain and fancy, uniform and diverse, simple and complex, makes the same kind of statement on a regional scale.

It is easy for the uninquiring eye, or the unreflective imagination, to see nothing but sameness in the profusion of little settlements which dot the Upper Delaware Valley, and from the sameness to infer simpleness. Peters Valley insists to the contrary. Its architectural accomplishments are not, perhaps, to the purist's tastes. Its most elegant details are just that; details, applied to frames of an essentially ordinary quality. But the result is an elegant simpleness which betrays an enduring, if low-keyed, sophistication. The spiritual forbears of the Peters Valley Craftsmen left an architectural record which reveals them to have been rich and complicated people. In their somewhat homespun, and none too dogmatic fashion, they showed a deep concern for the quality of the environment which they built and inhabited. As their inheritors, we can do no less.

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The Peters Valley Historic District is located on United States Army Corps of Engineers TIL Tracts #8404-1,2, 8405, 8406, 8407, 8408, 8409, 8413-1, 8413-2, 8414, 8415, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8427-C, 8428, 8429, 8430, 8431, 8432, and 8433. These tracts include a total of 263.06 acres. The district includes all of tracts 8405, 8406, 8407, 8408, 8409, 8413-2, 8414, 8415, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8427-C, 8428, 8429, 8430, 8431, 8432, and 8433, which include a total of 40.16 acres, and parts of tract 8404-1, 8404-2, and 8413-1, which include a total of 222.90 acres.

The boundary of the Historic District begins at Point A, on the southern edge of the right of way of Kuhn Road, where that right of way intersects with the tract boundary line between tracts 8413-2 and 8411-4, as shown on the accompanying Army Corps of Engineers tract map. From this point, the boundary extends to the southeast following the above-mentioned tract line for approximately 320' to Point B, where the tract line intersects with the tract boundary line between tracts 8411-4 and 8400-1. From this point, the boundary continues along the first mentioned tract line for approximately 180' to Point C. From this point, the boundary turns to the south and extends for approximately 120' along the same tract line to Point D. From this point, the boundary turns to the east/southeast and extends, along the tractline for approximately 400' to Point E. From this point, the boundary turns to the southeast and extends along the tract line for approximately 700' to Point F. From this point, the boundary turns to the east/southeast and extends, across tract 8404-1 and Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road to Point G, on the eastern edge of the right of way of Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road, where the right of way intersects with the boundary line between Tocks Island Lake Project and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, labeled on the Army Corps of Engineers tract DWGNRA 26.50 AC. From this point, the boundary turns map

T.I.L.P. 78.20 AC.

to the northeast and extends along the above-mentioned line for approximately 760' to Point H, where the above mentioned line intersects with the Project Reservation boundary line, shown on the above mentioned tract map by \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ From this Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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point, the boundary extends along the Project Reservation line in a generally north/northwesterly direction for approximately 1690' to Point I. on the eastern edge of the right of tract line between tracts 8413-1 and 8414-1 intersect with Walpack Road. From this point, the boundary turns to the west and extends across the Walpack Road and tract #8413-1 for approximately 520' to Point J, at the point of a sharp angle in the tract line between tracts 8413-1 and 8420-2. From this point, the boundary turns to the northwest and extends along this track line for approximately 450' to Point K, at the intersection of tract lines between tract 8413-1, 8412-2, 8419-2, and 8420-2. From this point, the boundary turns to the southwest and extends along the tract line between tracts 8413-1 and 8412-2, for approximately 720' to Point L, on the southern edge of the right of way of Kuhn Road, northeast of Point A. From this point, the boundary turns to the southwest and extends along the above-mentioned right of way for approximately 80' back to Point A.

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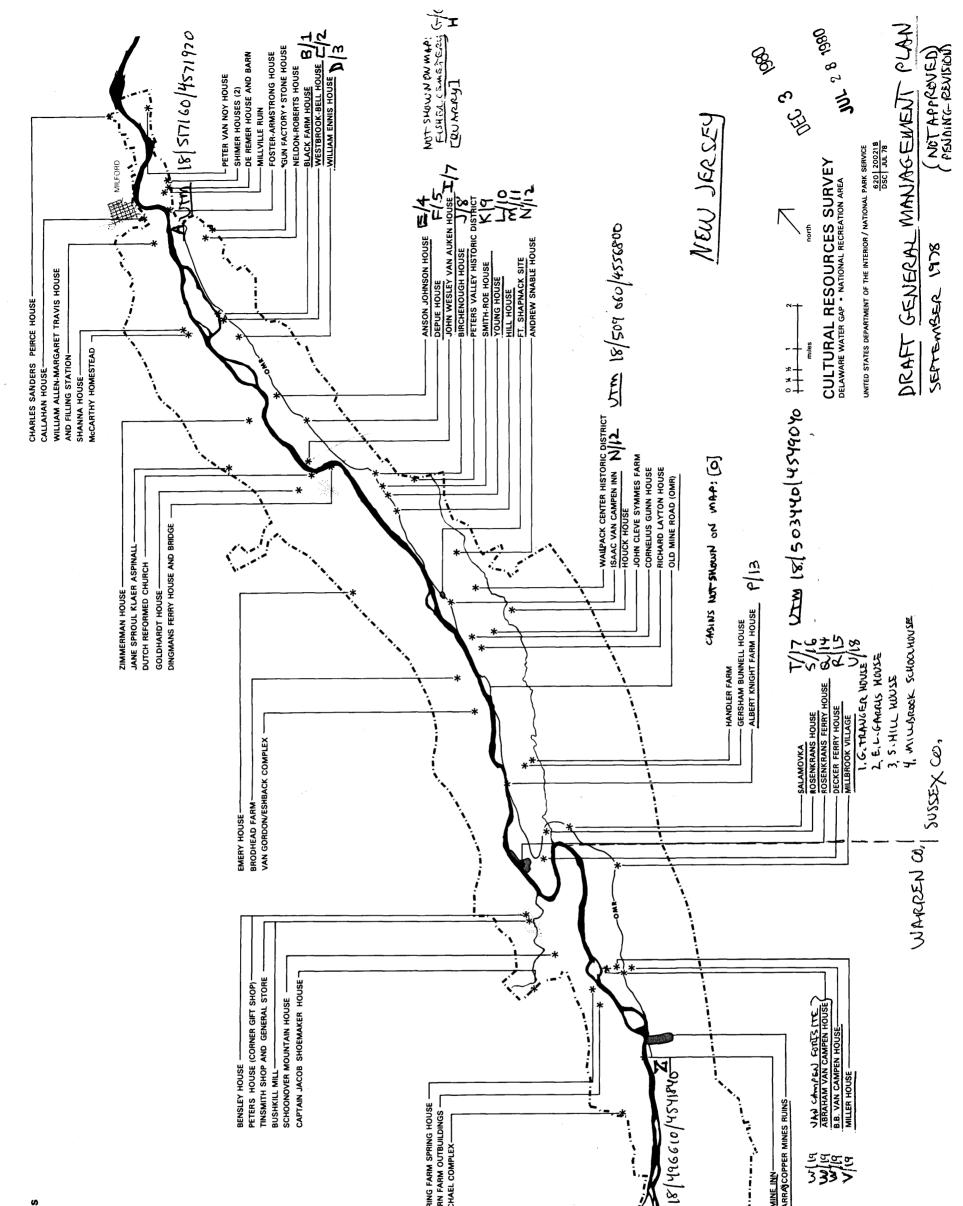
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### SKETCH MAP

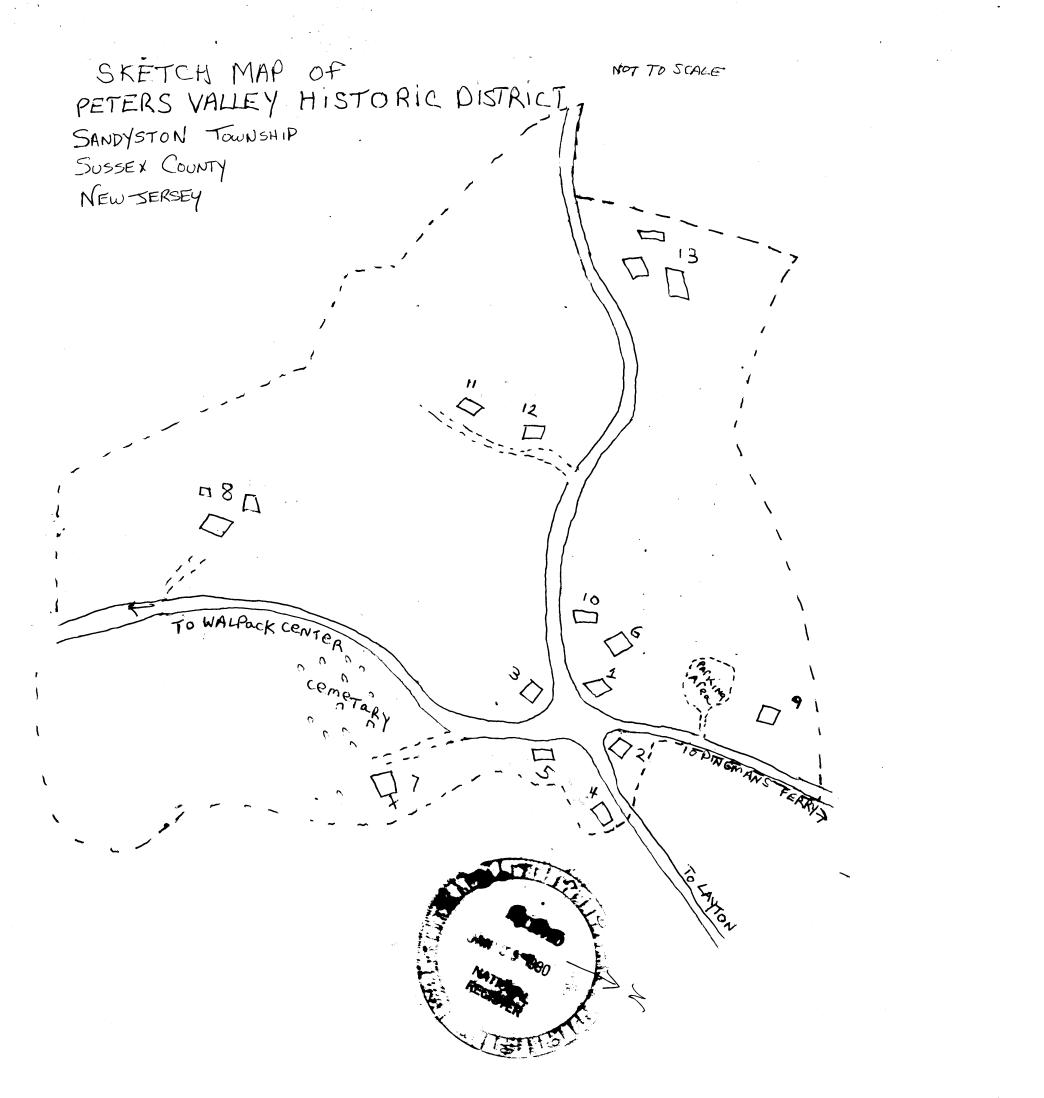
### PETERS VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1. Peters Valley Store
- 2. Old Dutch Reformed Church\*
- 3. Doremus House \*
- 4. McVoy House \*
- 5. Angermann House \*
- 6. Greek Revival House \*
- 7. Dutch Reformed Church\*
- 8. Valley Brook Farm \*
- 9. Upper Treible House
- 10. Lower Treible House \*
- 11. Mitchell House \*
- 12. Robert Stoll House \*
- 13. Hilltop Farm \*

\*Photographs included with nomination



FAUCETT HARRY'S FARM MILER FIELD BRODHEAD-HELLER ZIMMERNAN PAHAQUARAN BESLER MINISINK ZIENDT	PENNSYLVANIA	COLD SPRIN JOHN MICH	EAST STROUDSBURG	TOTTS GAP COMPLEX SLATEFORD FARM COMPLEX



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