

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 23 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wallpack Center Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Wallpack Center, N.J.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wallpack Center Rd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wallpack Center

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13, New Jersey

STATE

New Jersey

VICINITY OF
CODE

34

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

037

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

143 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Architectural Data
Section on Historic Buildings in the DWGNRA. 1967

DATE

1976, 1967

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters

CITY, TOWN

Bushkill

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wallpack Center Historic District consists of a single short street, flanked by a church, an old schoolhouse, a country store, and six small, plain white frame houses. This cluster of structures, which stretch for less than a quarter of a mile between Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road and the banks of the Flat Brook in Wallpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey, constitutes the village of Wallpack Center. The village grew up during the mid-19th century to supply neighboring farmers with those goods and services which they were unable or unwilling to provide for themselves. Wallpack continued to serve this function for about a century after its origin, by which time its service role had largely eclipsed by larger towns, leaving it a residual settlement, meeting the needs of its own residents, and anyone else who happened along the road.

The character of the surrounding environment remains predominantly rural-agricultural, divided into numerous small working farms, with a scattering of exurban homes for affluent commuters to New York City and elsewhere. The original appearance of the district has been relatively unchanged in the last century, except for the occasional addition of a house. The predominant environment fact of life for Wallpack Center has been its location in a long, narrow valley, a fact which has largely shaped its fate.

The following buildings contribute to the visual and historical character of the district:

1. The Wallpack Center Methodist Church: A tall, white Victorian frame building with clapboard siding and a slate roof. Built in 1871, replacing an 1837 stone structure. Four tall windows with shallow arched tops on each side of nave. Building displays a country version of Italianate styling, the only structure in the district with evidence of outside architectural influence. Significant to District.
2. The Wallpack Center Schoolhouse: Simple white clapboard structure with slate roof. Later Victorian addition to belfry. Built ca. 1856. Significant to District.
(2a. Mid-20th century concrete addition serves building in its present function for township equipment storage, an intrusive element on the architectural and historic integrity of the district. Intrusion to District.)
3. The Wallpack Center General Store: Good example of late 19th century country store. Double-bay front display window. Wood panelling and double glazed entrance doors. Interior thoroughly modernized, store abandoned. Serves as a modern post office. Significant to District.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

New Jersey is, by many criteria, the most urbanized American state. Yet, located in its northwestern corner, in well preserved disuse, if not exactly good working order, are several examples of one of the earliest forms of urbanism to appear in North America: the rural service center. American culture has long encouraged mobility, and the dispersion of population on the land, at the expense of clustered settlement. Yet from the first, the scattered population required nodes of relatively intensive human activity to provide the goods and services necessary to supplement the "self sufficiency" that Americans have long admired in themselves, but have seldom in practice been able to entirely live up to.

The Golden Age of the rural service center in the United States was from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth. Then, tiny settlements dotted the agricultural parts of the country with predictable, if picturesque, regularity; classic sleepy towns during the week that came alive on Saturday mornings when the farmers came to trade. From its present appearance, Walpack Center may have been a little sleeper than most. It is currently absent from some of the road maps of the state. But between about 1850 and 1920, when it served a large handful of the farms that contributed to New Jersey's reputation as the "Garden State", its small but doubtless appreciative audience didn't need a map to know it was there.

The character of the countryside surrounding Walpack Center, and the fate of the village itself, have been interdependent factors throughout the settlement period of the area. Both are products of their location in the Flat Brook Valley; an occasionally broad, but more often narrow depression between the main ridge of the Kittatinny Mountains, and Pompey's Ridge, which lies to the west, separating the valley from that of the Delaware River. The Flat Brook parallels the Delaware for most of the way between its mouth near Flatbrookville, and its division into "Big" and "Little" Flat Brooks near Peters Valley.

A large proportion of the fertile, farmable land in Sandyston and Walpack Townships is contained in the Flat Brook's drainage area. The farms which sprang up on this land were largely isolated from service centers across either ridge, and were dependent on the development of local centers. The relationship was reciprocal. The towns which grew up to supply Flat Brook farms were of relatively little use to those lying outside of the valley.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dodd, John B. Classified Structure Field Inventory Reports. Structures #63, 74-C, 75-C, 83-C, 350-C, 351-C, 352-C. April, 1976
- Souder, Norman M. Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings in the DWGNRA. 1967.
- Snell, James P. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J., Phila. Everts & Peck, 1881. pp. 329-330

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16
 UTM REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A | 18 | 510000 | 4556220 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 18 | 510200 | 4555940 |

B | 18 | 510280 | 4556060 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 18 | 509940 | 4556090 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Walpack Center Historic District is located on United States Army Corps of Engineers TIL Tracts # 8202, 8203, 8240, 8205-1, 8205-2, 8206, 8207, 8208, 8209, 8224, 8225, 8226, 8227, and 8228. These tracts include a total of 63.84 acres. The district includes all of tracts # 8203, 8204, 8205-1, 8205-2, 8206, 8207, 8208, 8223, 8224, 8225, and 8227, which include a total of 6.11 acres, and parts of tracts # 8202, 8209, 8226, and 8228, which include a total of 57.73 acres.

cont'd.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne K. Bodle Park Technician

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

4/22/77

STREET & NUMBER

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bushkill

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES XX

NO

NONE

Deputy Betty Wilson
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

F. B. Andrews
 Assistant Director,
 Cultural Resources

DATE

FEB 25 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally J. Dell ^{for} *Patricia*
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 DATE 7/17/80

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrews*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/10/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 23 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 17 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Classified Structure Field Inventory Reports, 1976, Federal.
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters,
Bushkill, Pennsylvania

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 26 1980

DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(Wallpack Center) Description 7 2

The six houses in Wallpack Center are small, mostly simple variations of the Upper Delaware Valley type.

4. The First Rosenkrans House: Next to the store. One of the two oldest buildings in the village, built ca. 1830-40. A 1½-story frame cottage with several shed and porch additions. Contains many original details, including chair rails in original kitchen, and moulded panels below parlor windows. Four small eyebrow windows at second floor level in front. Significant to the District.
5. The First Robbins House: Across street from First Rosenkrans House, and similar in styling to it. Built ca. 1840, with four characteristic eyebrow windows, identical to Rosenkrans. Different pattern of shed and porch additions; seam metal roof. Significant to the District.
6. The Second Rosenkrans House: Two-story, turn-of-the-century enactment of traditional simple frame village style. Originally built as a parsonage for the Methodist Church, ca. 1905.
7. The Hendershot House: A simple two-story gable facade structure on a concrete foundation, ca. 1910. Continuation of traditional village style in slate shingles, white clapboarding, and dark green trim. Significant to the District.
8. The Christie House: Built ca. 1910 by the same country carpenter who built the Hendershot House, it is the latter's stylistic twin, with slightly different details. Significant to the District.
9. The Second Robbins House: A two-story eaves-facade frame structure, ca. 1950's. It is an intrusion upon the otherwise integrated village scene because its scale is gross in comparison with other houses on the street, which are all small and pleasant, and its proportions are poor. Its most disturbing feature is its fenestration, with the second story windows

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 26 1980
RECEIVED
JUL 17 1980
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(Wallpack Center) Description 7 2

being narrower than those of the first story on the front facade and gables, and with complete disorder on the rear. Fortunately, for its relationship to the village street, this discrepancy on the facade is somewhat disguised by the heavy porch. An intrusion on the nineteenth and early twentieth century uniformity of design and styling typical of the District.

In general, the appearance of the buildings in Wallpack Center is simple, plain, and unexciting, but attractive. The village conveys the feeling of a turn-of-the-century rural service center with an unusually unmarred integrity. The only intrusions on this integrity are the disproportionate effect of the Second Robbins House, the concrete block addition to the Schoolhouse, and the cinderblock Firehouse. Fortunately, these intrusions are not sufficiently glaring as to disrupt the unity of the scene. The village now serves as staff housing for an employee of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, of which it is a part. Also, Artists for the Environment utilizes four houses for its program. This use helps to foster its preservation, as well as continuing in a somewhat different form its functional role as a service center for the surrounding countryside.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 23 1979
DATE ENTERED	11 17 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
(Wallpack Center) Significance	8	3

The significance of Wallpack's history, then, can best be measured against the comparative growth and change of neighboring communities such as Peters Valley and Flatbrookville. None really prospered far into the twentieth century, but none took exactly the same path, either. The linked, but finely differentiated fates of the three Flat Brook Valley settlements can be read in their respective architectural heritages, which are essentially similar, but nonetheless importantly different. Wallpack Center has nothing comparable to the self-consciously Victorian delicacy of the Rosenkrans House in Flatbrookville or its recently demised neighbors, to say nothing of the good humored whimsicality of the "Greek Revival House" in Peters Valley. Such pretensions, smacking of other worldly connections, would have (and would still) visually embarrassed the village. By comparison with these would-be cosmopolitan fantasies, the diluted Italianate flavor of the Wallpack Center Methodist Church, or the misplaced Victorian display of the schoolhouse belfry across the street, seem like schoolboy smirks at half-intended practical jokes.

Wallpack Center was never, during its heyday, and does not pretend to be now, a sophisticated town. The buildings that are the village - its houses, especially - reflect its workaday, early-to-bed history. They are without exception ordinary, architecturally, but by their very quality of ordinary-ness, they are for historical purposes uncommonly legible. They convey without pretense or confusion the place they held in the lives of the people who built them, lived in them, and used them. That they are useful still is important evidence to sustain the hope that old towns have neither to die, nor to fade away, but rather that they can be adapted to the changing needs of a changing society.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 23 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(Wallpack Center) Significance

8

3

The towns of Peters Valley, Wallpack Center, and Flatbrookville, which developed at three and seven mile intervals along the valley to serve these economic needs, balanced precariously on the terms of this geographic and ecological equation. Their supply of customers was assured by the isolation of the valley, but limited for the same reason. None would develop more than primary economic or communal functions, nor grow beyond a certain point. Of the three, Wallpack Center, more isolated than the others by virtue of its position at the center of the valley, was more limited in its potential for growth or long term survival.

Flatbrookville, at the southern end of the valley, had important connections with outside traffic along the Old Mine Road, and on the Delaware River at several nearby ferries. Peters Valley, on the north, was located at the intersection of at least four country roads, none of which led to settlements more important than itself, but which gave it access to the minimal exchange functions which sustained its persistent, if limited, vitality.

Wallpack Center had none of these advantages. Its world of exchange, reference, and practically everything else, consisted of the fixed ring of farmsteads which lay within practicable carting distance. As often as these farms might change hands, the size of Wallpack's market, and the extent of its influence would remain as they had been. The automotive revolution of the early 20th century did not, as some may have hoped, extend the town's market. Rather, it destroyed it. Now, even neighboring farms were no longer dependent on it.

The advent of automobility was hard, in strictly economic terms, on all of the small settlements of northwestern New Jersey, as it was everywhere in rural America. But Wallpack Center, with fewer initial advantages than most to keep it going was especially vulnerable to changing patterns of travel and lifestyle. When the going became easier, it was one of the many places that people came from, rather than the relative handful that they went to. After about 1910, with the exception of a new house for an old family (the Robbins), and the conversion of the schoolhouse for township use, there was no new construction, and one by one the tradespeople, all but the store-keeper, began to move elsewhere.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 23 1979

DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(Walpack Center) Verbal Boundary
description

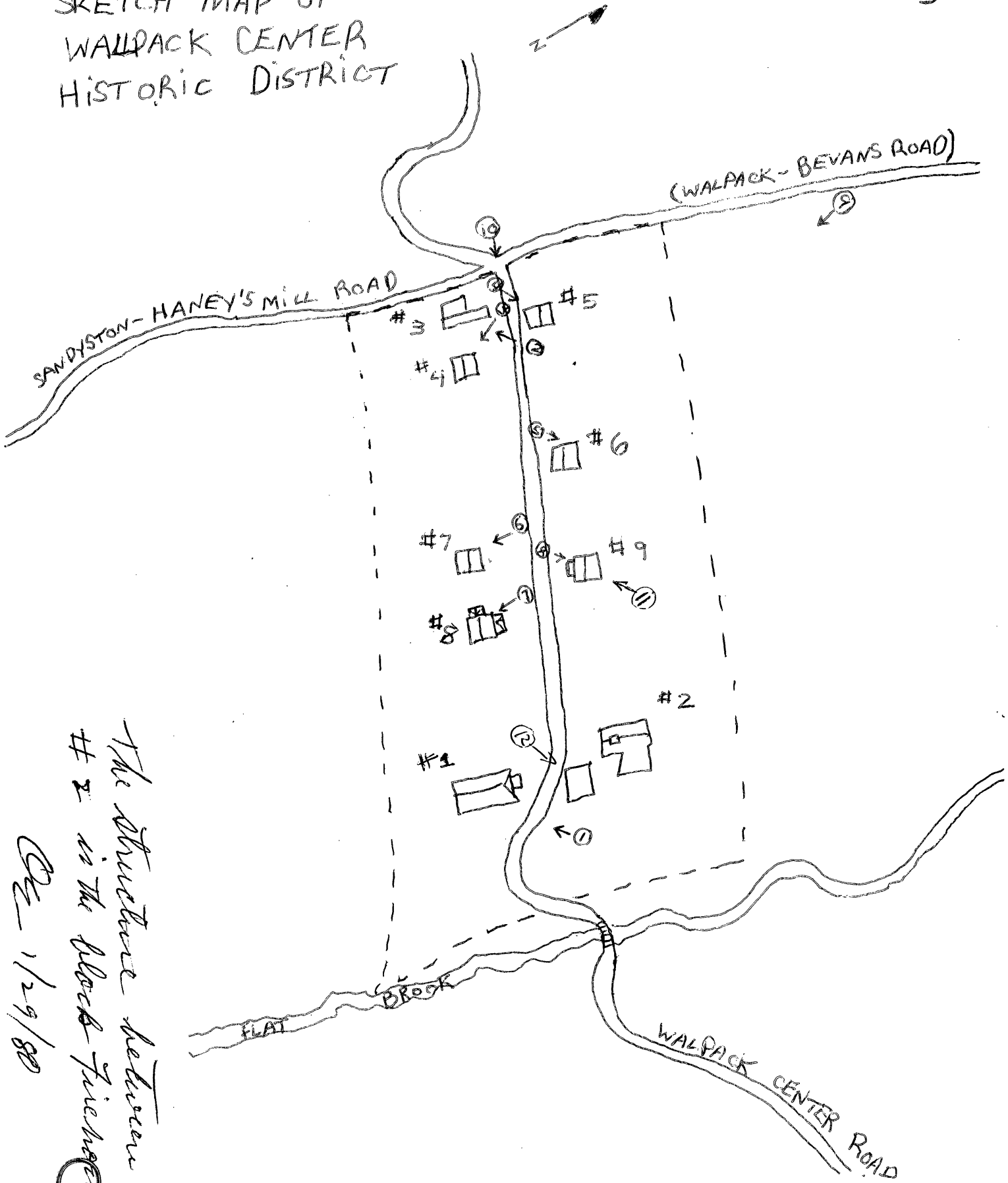
10

4

The boundary of the Historic District begins at Point A, on the southwestern edge of the right-of-way of Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road, where the right-of-way intersects with the southern tract line between tracts # 8202 and 8203, approximately 425' southwest of the intersection of Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road with the Walpack Center Road. From this point, the boundary extends to the southeast for approximately 560' to Point B, at the southwestern corner of the tract # 8207, as shown on the accompanying Army Corps of Engineers tract map. From this point, the boundary continues in a southwesterly direction along the southwestern boundary line of tract 8207, for 140', and thence beyond that line for another 300' to Point C, and on the northwestern bank of the Blat Brook. From this point, the boundary turns to the northeast and extends of 650', crossing the Walpack Center Road immediately to the southeast of the village, to Point D. From this point, the boundary turns to the northwest and extends for approximately 1040' to Point E on the southeastern edge of Sandyston-Haney's Mill Road right-of-way, northeast of Point A. From this point, the boundary turns to the southwest and extends along the abovementioned right-of-way, for approximately 700' back to Point A.

SKETCH MAP OF
WALPACK CENTER
HISTORIC DISTRICT

(NOT TO SCALE)



The structure between #1 and
#2 is the Black Friar house.
CZ 1/29/80