Chapter II - Cultural Resources Analysis

Prehistoric Wayne County

Not much is known about the prehistoric inhabitants of Wayne County. Archeological research indicates the area was inhabited on a transient basis as long as 12,000 years ago by Paleo-Indian cultures. Most of the artifacts found today were left 2,000-6,000 years ago by Archaic Period populations who lived in rock shelters overlooking the Delaware River and other major streams.

Damascus Township area artifacts (knives)

Examples of local Archaic Period knives made from flint and chert are depicted to the right. When the first Europeans reached eastern Pennsylvania, they found Native Americans of the Woodland Period who were called “Delawares" or "Lenni Lenapes." It appears these local tribes were Algonquian and may have been subservient to the Iroquois Nation.

There were evidently three branches of the Lenni Lenape. The Minsi, one of these, was associated with the northern part of the Delaware River valley from Delaware Water Gap to Callicoon. Tamanend or Tamany, a Lenni Lenape chief, is said to have lived in what is now Damascus Township and the area below Callicoon on the Wayne County side is named after him (“Tamany Flats”). Several other names found today on Wayne County maps were also derived from Lenape names. Some of these include Equinunk, Lackawaxen, Paupack and Wallenpaupack.

Connecticut Settlers

The area now constituting Wayne County was part of Northampton County when Northampton was carved out of Bucks County in 1752. The portion of Northampton County north of the Blue Mountains then was thought to contain about 500 people. However, nearly all the people in northeast Pennsylvania had come here via the Hudson River. They were mainly from Connecticut.

The Connecticut claim to northern Pennsylvania was based on the King Charles II 1663 confirmation of an earlier grant to the Connecticut Colony, whereby that colony's lands extended "from sea to sea." It antedated Charles II's 1681 gift of a tract to William Penn. Thus, Connecticut could claim more than two-fifths of Pennsylvania. Moreover, the land in northeast Pennsylvania had been purchased by Connecticut representatives from the Six Nations in 1754, at Albany, some 14 years before representatives of the Penns made their purchase. Subsequently the Delaware Company, based in Norwich, Connecticut, laid out about 50 towns (townships).

Town meetings of the New England type began to be held in the Cushetunk settlement, centered on present Milanville in 1761. There were about 30 log houses and a blockhouse. A second Connecticut

settlement, surveyed in 1751, was made in what is now Paupack Township. This also was governed under Connecticut law from 1774 on.

The Connecticut settlers in northeast Pennsylvania were living on a frontier, serving as a kind of picket line for the more settled regions to their south and east. Meanwhile, the Penns were busy creating 13 or 14 "manors" in the future Wayne County, having them surveyed between 1748 and 1769 and giving them names such as "Damascus Manor" and “Pleasant Garden." The manors were lands set apart as the private property of the Penn brothers.

The Philadelphia Landholders

Through Congressional action, a board of commissioners met at Trenton in 1782 and decided the William Penn family-owned northeastern Pennsylvania, the northern border of which is marked by the monument pictured to the right (found along the West Branch of the Delaware River just above Balls Eddy). It also marks the northern border of Wayne County. The reverse side of the monument identifies it as the boundary of New York State.

Pennsylvania and New York boundary marker on Penn York Road in Scott Township

Some 150 Connecticut families were evicted from the Wyoming Valley and many of their dwellings were destroyed in what is known as the Wyoming Massacre. Speculators, mainly in Philadelphia, purchased warrants on the Penn lands in northeastern Pennsylvania. Few of them ever saw the land. Jason Torrey helped to mediate between the claims in 1803. The largest landholders were Quakers.

Outstanding among the large landholders was Samuel Meredith, who had bought some 50,000 acres here between 1790 and 1796. Meredith's Belmont Manor (Mount Pleasant Township) comprised some 26,000 acres.

Another large landholder was Henry Drinker, a Philadelphia Quaker merchant. His partner, Samuel Preston, founded the Stockport settlement (now largely a ghost town), which eventually contained a large grist mill, sawmill, mansion, church, and scow (for transport across the Delaware River) among other structures. Preston was later commissioned as Wayne County's first associate justice. He is buried in the Stockport Cemetery along the Delaware River. Preston Township was named for Samuel Preston.

Early Wayne County

Wayne County was created from Northampton County in 1798 and named after General Anthony Wayne. Six townships were created: Buckingham, Canaan, Damascus, Lackawaxen, Mount Pleasant and Palmyra.

The county then probably contained around 800 people, scattered over a large area of rough country, with few roads and limited tillable land. Around this time County officials disbursed $75.65 in bounties for the scalps of wolves.

Portion of northern Wayne County warranty map

Henry Drinker offered 1,000 acres of the 10,000 he owned between the Dyberry River and the West Branch of the Lackawaxen to the fledging county. Part of this gift became the Borough of Bethany. Jason Torrey laid out the town. It became the county seat in 1805. An 1823 contract between Wayne County and “Manning and Torrey” yielded construction of a fire- proof brick County building on the public square. It is now the Bethany Public Library.

More public money was going out than was coming in as taxes. Therefore, in 1800, one of the county commissioners spent three months in Philadelphia, advertising that he was there to receive taxes on unsold lands. From 1807 to 1809, the county sheriff sold the remaining lands of the speculators.

The Torrey map of 1814 shows four communities: Milford, Bethany, Damascus and Shieldsboro. However, Pike County and the northern part of Monroe were split off from Wayne County that year. Most of Lackawaxen Township became part of Pike. Wayne was reduced to its current size, inhabited by about 4,000 people.

Local histories indicate arrangements were made behind the scenes in 1840-41 to move the county seat to Honesdale through an act of the Pennsylvania legislature. The D & H Canal Company and Torrey estate jointly gave a plot east of Honesdale's Public Square for the courthouse site. The new courthouse was too small and in 1876, construction began on a new brick building. A "courthouse war" of public opinion resulted. The building was modified to reduce its controversial cost and was not completed until 1880.

Agriculture

Some early visitors to northeast Pennsylvania were like Connecticut schoolteacher Denman Coe. He came into what is now Newfoundland about 1794 and built a log cabin. He hunted and trapped. Every year, he carried $200 to $300 of furs back to Connecticut on his back. A major crop for early farmers was wheat. A

1791 settler in Pleasant Mount, for example, is recorded as having cleared and sowed 14 acres of wheat. The general pattern was to buy a tract of land, lumber off part of it and sell that part for farming. Then the owner would lumber off another tract and sell it off. Large timber tracts were often divided into small farms in the mid-19th century.

Farming was a subsistence operation in these early years. Wayne County's was largely a barter economy. Butter and eggs could be exchanged for necessities with local merchants. Pork and beef were marketed as salted meat. Cloth and yarn were made in the farmhouse from home- grown wool. Each Fall, farmers in Sterling township peddled their provender in Scranton. They would load their wagons the day before, then rise long before daylight, drive a team and wagon, sometimes in freezing cold weather, sell their produce, do a little trading, and drive home by midnight. This activity was common until the mid-20th century although there were variations on the techniques used.

Milk was processed into butter at local creameries and shipped to New York City on daily trains around 1898. Many farmers joined the Dairymen's League in the early 1920s. The 1930s depression, however, had a deep impact. Since 1940, many small farms have been abandoned or consolidated into larger farms.

All the creameries have closed, and railroad shipments no longer exist. Milk is instead now hauled directly to metropolitan processing plants by large tank trucks. Wayne County was also a major producer of eggs in the early part of the 20th century. Indeed, in 1966, Wayne ranked first in Pennsylvania in the value of its poultry. There were about 150 poultry farms. This industry has rapidly declined since then and is now of little significance.

Notwithstanding this, through the Wayne Tomorrow! Initiative, the County has identified agriculture as a key driver of economic development in the future and has actively supported the return of Agriculture Education at Honesdale High School and rebirth of the Future Farmers of America. To further support the rise of the agriculture industry in Wayne County, Wayne Tomorrow! also launched the Agrolegacy, Certified Local, brand in 2023 to amplify the voice of local agriculture producers in the marketplace.

Ice Harvesting

Before mechanical refrigeration was introduced around 1938, the ice on many ponds was cut into cakes and stored in specially built structures. The work of filling the local ice houses with a year's supply of ice provided several days of employment for all available men each winter. Ice was cut by large hand saws; later by gasoline-powered saws. It was transported by sleighs, wagons, and then, by truck. It was shipped by train to the city.

Clearing of snow, a part of the ice harvesting process

On the Lake Henry shore, the ice

houses were reached by a special railway branch line. During the summer when ice usage peaked, up to 150 boxcar loads of ice per day shipped out of the Tobyhanna, Gouldsboro and Klondike (near Gouldsboro) plants in southern Wayne County and nearby.

Lumbering

Wayne County's trees were its major source of income for many decades and continue to be very valuable. Most of the County was known as the "Beech Woods." Cherry, white pine, basswood, black ash, white ash, maple, beech and hemlock were present in quantity, but beech was the most abundant. There were many large elm trees. Sawmills were also abundant. Huntington Collins, for instance, was said to have built 200 sawmills during his lifetime. Until late in the 19th century, sawmills were water-powered (like Hill's Mill in Duck Harbor, pictured to the right) as were the grist mills. There were some 50 steam-powered sawmills in the County in 1870. Some 90% of the logs harvested were hemlock then.

Hill's Mill - National Register site

Lumbering was an almost universal occupation in the 1860's. Aside from those engaged full time in lumbering, most farmers spent the winter months in the woods, getting out lumber or bark, or both. Some of the lumber went into canal barges. Mathews' History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties says some 3,000 boats were built for the D & H Canal, the lumber for which was largely taken from Wayne and Pike counties. As the best lumber was exhausted, tanneries sprang up on all sides.

Wayne County was the greatest production center for tanned leather in the U.S. in 1862. Some of the largest factories were those operated by Coe Young at Tanners Falls; Pratt and Alden at Aldenville; Stone and Drake at Beech Pond; Wefferling & Brunig at Carley Brook; Foster at Seelyville; Morse at Ledgedale; Strong at Starrucca; Holbert at Equinunk; Robertson at Middle Valley; Hoyt Bros. at Lake Como, and Beach at Milanville.

Because hides could be transported more cheaply than bark, they were brought to Honesdale over the D & H Canal, then transported overland to tanneries. Some operations were very large, even by modern standards. The tannery at Starrucca reported a business of $210,310 in 1869; the third largest such enterprise in Wayne County. Some of the hides came from South America.

Acid Factories

The hemlock bark was practically exhausted by 1870 and the tanneries were mostly converted to acid factories. The acid factories used any size of hardwood in 4-foot lengths. Farmers got their fields cleared and made a living from the sale of 4-foot wood for the acid factories. The first Wayne County factory for making acetate, crude wood spirits and charcoal was built in Starrucca in 1876 for the Starrucca Chemical Company. Some 800 acres of timber were purchased to keep it supplied.

There were two other acid factories in that area by 1882. They burned beech, birch, maple, and cherry. The Starrucca Chemical Company ceased operations in 1924. When the acid factories closed down in the early 1920's, a new industry was developed - making railroad ties, mine ties and props and lagging for mine ceilings. These required some sawmill work.

Rafting

Rafting on the Delaware is thought to have begun in 1764 when Daniel Skinner made and ran his first raft. Logs were rolled down to the river, or slid down, using a trench called a "runway." The masts of the USS Constitution, built in 1797, are thought to have come from an area between Mast Hope and Narrowsburg. Rafting to Philadelphia probably reached its peak in the 1830's. The Delaware was sometimes filled with hundreds of rafts. By 1903, the timber was almost gone. It is said that the last commercial raft on the river left from Stockport in 1922.

Turnpikes & Droving

The Cochecton-Great Bend Turnpike was finished in 1811. Shares of stock were sold at $50. It was an important link between Newburgh and western New York State. For many years, there was a daily stage and mail delivery on it. Large droves of cattle and sheep were driven over the Cochecton-Great Bend Turnpike to markets in the east. The drovers from New York State used the North and South Road (the Belmont-Easton Turnpike) to herd their flocks of cattle, sheep and geese to the market. Along the road, there were pens to put the animals into at night. The road ran from upper New York State to Easton. From there, one could go to Philadelphia.

Most of the work on the Milford-Owego Turnpike was done by the people who lived along it. Once the trees had been cut down, their stumps had to be grubbed out. There were eight toll gates on the Milford-Owego Turnpike. Gatekeepers received a 10% commission. The gate near Waymart was one of the most profitable, collecting around $1,000 in 1830. Stage travel on the turnpikes reached its zenith about 1836. Canals and railroads carried freight and passengers at a fraction of the cost and led to a drop in use of the turnpikes after that. They later became part of the public highway system.

Nevertheless, large droves of cattle, sheep and hogs were driven over the Milford-Owego Turnpike long after the railroads had taken the passenger, mail and freight business. These droves were often over one mile long and contained hundreds of head of cattle. The complementary turnpike from Salem to Cherry Ridge (now Route 191) was completed in 1845, reducing the travel time to Honesdale by more than half. It ran through what was almost an unbroken forest. The turnpike era came to a close in the 1860's reflecting one of several major transportation impacts on the County.

A County of Small Communities

Pleasant Mount was one of the larger villages of early Wayne County. It was a stopover on an important turnpike. There was manufacturing, as well as storekeeping. There were, in and around Pleasant Mount about 1830 the following: a wool factory, a saw mill, a grist mill, a tannery, a shoemaker, a wagon factory, an axe handle and bedspring factory, a furniture shop, a blacksmith shop, livery stables, grocery stores, a tin shop, a drug store, hotels, a meat market, an ice cream parlor, a doctor, a dentist, an undertaker, a harness shop and a millinery shop. There were also three churches and an academy.

Another of the larger communities was Seelyville. James Birdsall came to Seely's Mills (a.k.a. Seelyville) in 1846 to construct a woolen mill. The falls there already supplied power for a grist mill, a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, a stick and sash factory, a tannery, two foundries and a handle shop. Most of the villages, however, consisted of a schoolhouse, a church, a mill, a blacksmith shop, a store with a post office, and some houses. There were some 60 villages in the 19th century. Some place names - such as Atco - are still in use. Throughout the County, the general store was a common sight. Some 47 or 48 general stores were functioning in the 1940s. Few of these still exist.

The County Center

The central part of Wayne County contains five of its six boroughs: Waymart, Prompton, Bethany, Honesdale, and Hawley. All but Bethany was created to serve the coal industry. The panoramic illustration of Honesdale found below depicts the canal, railroad and coal piles that defined this community's early character, built on foundations of coal and transportation.

Panoramic image of Honesdale in 1890 from Library of Congress Collection

Early manufacturing operations in Honesdale included shoemaking. There were 17 boot and shoemakers there in 1861. The firm of Durland-Thompson produced some 720 pairs of shoes per day. This company was followed by Honesdale Union Stamp Shoe Company and Banner Slipper Textile Manufacture.

The Birdsall mill in Seelyville employed 10 men in 1852 and could process five tons of wool per year that came in on farmers' wagons. Blankets were the main product after the Civil War and, by 1879, production increased to some 50 tons per year. The factory didn't close until 1957. There were also a number of other silk and knitting mills in Hawley, White Mills and Honesdale. Outstanding among them were the Belmont plant in Hawley, Sherman Underwear and Amber Lingerie, the Florence Silk Mill, American Knitting, Branley Knitting (known for its sweaters) and Katz Underwear. Katz Underwear began in 1899 and had 500 employees by 1937. In the 1960s, it was the largest employer in the county.

Another prominent industry in the center of Wayne County was glassmaking. There was a glass works in Dyberry Township in 1820 making, primarily, window panes, but also hollow glassware. Later, there was a considerably larger operation in Tracyville on Carley Brook. But the main product for which the County was known was cut glass. The famous Dorflinger glass was made in White Mills. This manufacturing operation began in 1865 and was enlarged into a kind of empire, including a hotel-like Dorflinger family dwelling, the "St. Charles" and 75 cottages for the employees. The Dorflinger factory also furnished blanks for some 22 glass cutting shops in Wayne County. It reached its peak about 1903, employing 650 men and boys. The plant closed in 1921.

Coal Transportation

The Kimble farm and the Jason Torrey lands at the Dyberry-Lackawaxen Forks had become Wayne County's largest community and its county seat by the very early 1800's. This was followed by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company completing its canal to the Hudson River in 1828. It led to further development of what later became known as the town of Honesdale. Coal from the mines at Carbondale was trans-shipped from the D & H Gravity Railroad to the canal, at the Honesdale basin. In its peak year, 1872, the canal carried almost 3 million tons of coal to Rondout, New York (near Kingston on the Hudson River) on the way to New York City. The last load was shipped in 1898.

Where the D&H Gravity Railroad and D&H Canal met between Commercial and Main Streets

The coal trans-shipped at Honesdale was brought over the hills by a remarkable operation - a "gravity railroad." It was 16 miles long and raised the coal cars about 950 feet from the mines to the top of Moosic Mountain. The cars arrived at Honesdale some 900 feet lower than that. The photo above is from the Wayne County Historical Society website and generally depicts the area in which the Honesdale Post Office is now located at the time of the Gravity Railroad operation. Lower Ridge Street can be seen in the background, including the original Methodist Church, which is now an apartment building. There were originally five inclined planes at the Carbondale end, each having a stationary steam engine at its top. The cars were pulled up one side and let down on the other. After its final modification in 1866, this railroad could carry 12,000 tons of coal in a 10-12 hour working day. The D&H later replaces it gravity railroad with

a stream locomotive line to Carbondale at the Honesdale end, a new passenger station was added. This operation, nonetheless, also ceased in 1931.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company's gravity railroad was finished in 1850. It two tracks from Port Griffith, Pennsylvania to Hawley covered about 47 miles. A steam railroad was built alongside it in 1885, and the gravity railroad closed. The entire route, from the Scranton region to Lackawaxen, became an Erie operation in 1901. The branch line from Hawley to Honesdale began in 1868 as the “Jefferson Railroad.” Subsequently, the section from Scranton to Hawley was abandoned, leaving the Honesdale to Lackawaxen route that is now the only rail freight line remaining in Wayne County (although Gouldsboro has a tourist passenger station). It operates as the "Stourbridge Railroad," named after the famous Stourbridge Lion locomotive by which Honesdale became the “Birthplace of the American Railroad.” A replica is on display at the Wayne County Historical Society, which operates from the original D&H offices in Honesdale.

Lake Wallenpaupack and Earlier Resorts

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company dammed the Wallenpaupack Creek at Wilsonville in 1924-25. The purpose was to generate electricity. The resulting 13-mile-long lake (depicted right) resulted in extensive real estate and resort development, as PPL sold off its lands. Lake Wallenpaupack continues to define much of the region and draws many thousands of visitors and second home residents to the area.

Lake Ariel and Lake Ladore were also sites of early resorts. In the late 19th century, Lake Ariel was a flourishing place for excursions while the Pennsylvania Gravity Railroad and Erie and Wyoming Valley Railroad were operating. Parties of more than 1,000 people would come in on the passenger cars. The facilities at Lake Ariel were developed into the Lake Ariel Amusement Park, complete with a roller coaster. It was closed many years ago now.

Summer Camps

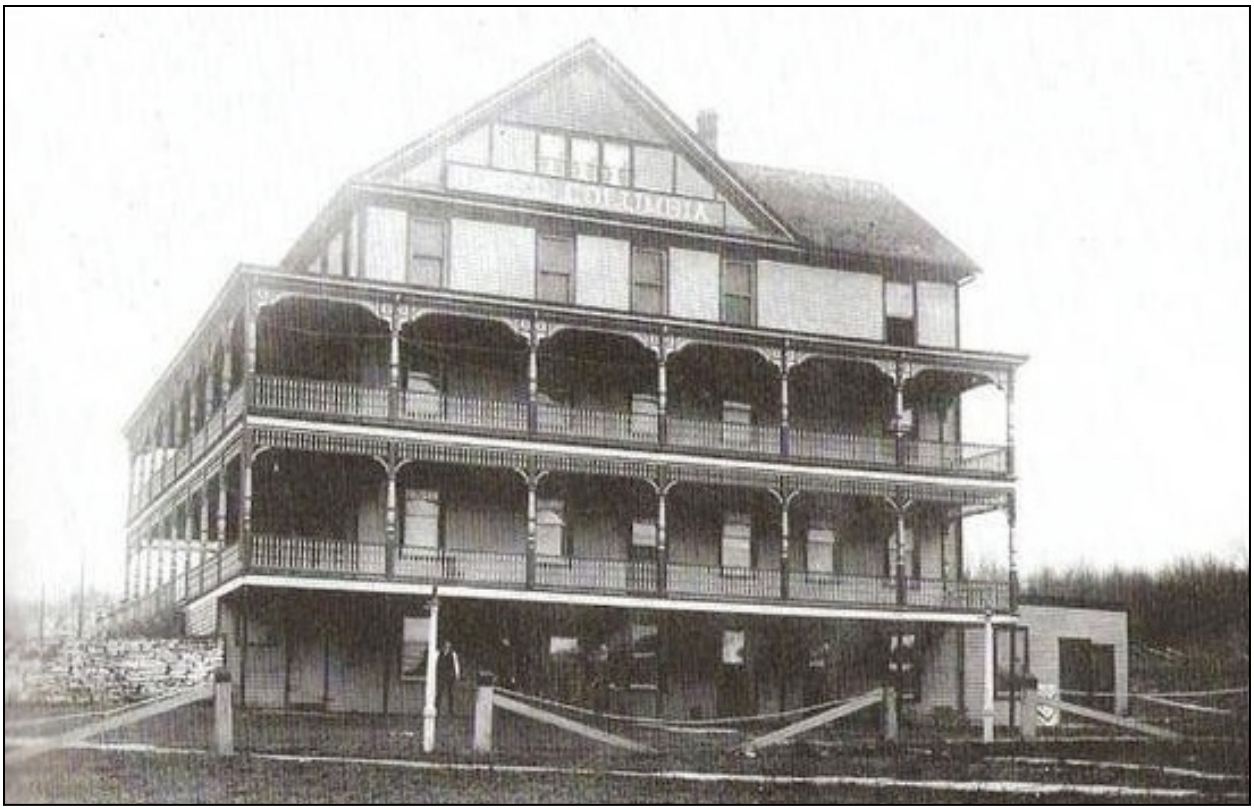
The summer camp industry has existed in Wayne County for a century. It is a specialized industry found in relatively few other areas of the country. The first summer camps to open in Wayne County are said to have been Harlee and Mitchell. These were begun in 1909 at Laurel Lake near Tyler Hill in Damascus Township.

By 1925, there were 21 camps. The boy and girl campers typically came in from New York City on the Erie Railroad (along the Delaware River) to

the Honesdale and Narrowsburg stations. Later they came by buses. There are even more summer camps in Wayne County today and, in fact, they pay from 7% to 21% of such taxes in the top five camp communities within the County and 2.2% of property taxes countywide as of 2023. They are also investing in a major way in the County.

Boarding Houses

In the summer, entire families would come from New York City and Scranton to refresh themselves. They came by the Erie Railroad in 1914 and were picked up at the nearby station by a jitney (horse-drawn bus). They stayed at farms or special boarding houses at Atco, Boyd's Mills, Fallsdale, Milanville, Damascus, Galilee, Rutledgedale, Tyler Hill, Lookout, Kellam, Braman, Equinunk, Preston Park, Lake Como, Winterdale, Hawley, White Mills, Honesdale, Seelyville, Varden, South Canaan, Lakeville, Lake Ariel, Arlington and especially at Beach Lake, which contained some 28 boarding houses. Some proprietors would take in boarders all year round.



Former Lake Ariel Hotel

The O&W Railroad, which hauled coal from Scranton along a line that ran through Northern Wayne County into New York State at Hancock, also resulted in the development of several hotels and boarding houses along its route, some of which remain today (e.g., Lakewood Hotel, Poyntelle Inn and Inn at Starlight Lake). Two of the stations also remain, one of which serves as the Buckingham Township building, the other being in Lakewood. The right-of-way has now largely been integrated into the Townships' road systems and is also used as hiking and snowmobile trails. The former D&H Railway line, which ran through Starrucca, is now used in a similar fashion.

Nationally Recognized Historical Sites

The National Register of Historic Places identifies the following historic sites in Wayne County: Table II-1:

Table II-1 National Register of Historic Places Sites in Wayne County

No.	Name/Description	Location	Municipality	Date
1	Delaware and Hudson Canal	Delaware and Hudson Canal	Honesdale & Others	1968
2	Wilmot House	Wayne Street	Bethany	1974
3	Hill's Sawmill	Duck Harbor	Damascus	1974
4	Octagon Stone Schoolhouse	One mile southwest of Canaan	South Canaan	1977
5	Wilmot Mansion	Wayne and Sugar Streets	Bethany	1978
6	Dorflinger Estate	US Route 6 and Charles Street	Palmyra	1978
7	Lacawac Sanctuary	East of Ledgedale	Salem	1979
8	Milanville-Skinners Falls Bridge	Bridge over Delaware River at Milanville	Damascus	1988
9	Haags Mill Creek Bridge	SR 171 over Haags Mill Creek	Dreher	1988
10	Damascus Historic District	Galilee Rd to Delaware River and Adjacent	Damascus	1992
11	Milanville Historic District	Milanville to Skinner's Fall Bridge	Damascus	1993
12	D&H Gravity Depot Museum	South Street	Waymart	1994
13	Honesdale Residential Historic District	North Main Street Towards Dyberry Creek	Honesdale	1998
14	Equinunk Historic District	SR 191 and Adjacent	Buckingham/Manchester	1999
15	O&W Station - Starlight	O&W Road, Starlight	Buckingham	2001
16	O'Connor American Rich Cut Glassware Factory	120 Falls Avenue	Hawley	2005
17	Patriotic Order Sons of American Washington Camp 422	465 South Sterling Road	Dreher	2010
18	Bellemonte Silk Mill	230 Welwood Ave.	Hawley	2010

Four of the sites are historic districts and three of these are located within the Upper Delaware River Valley, having been designated in conjunction with the establishment of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a unit of the National Park System. These include the villages of Equinunk, Damascus and Milanville.

Immigrants

Much of the western and northern part of Wayne County grew from immigration during the early part of the 20th century. Many Eastern European families, after working in the coal mines for a number of years, took their savings and purchased farms in Mount Pleasant Township, for example. Many settlers of the Russian Orthodox Faith moved into the area along the Belmont Turnpike and established the SS Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church in 1920. This area of the County has, over the years, anecdotally become known as the Greek or Russian Settlement.

Education History

Wayne County has a rich educational history beginning with the first school conducted in Elijah Dix's house in Mount Pleasant Township in 1794. The first log schoolhouse was built nearby in 1798. The County also had four octagon shaped "stone jug" schoolhouses at one point. The South Canaan octagon school remains and is in good condition. Remnants of the Whites Valley school on Route 670 also remain. It is unclear when these buildings were constructed or who designed or built them. It is believed that the South Canaan Stone Jug School was in use by the late 1830's. There were, subsequently, numerous one-room schoolhouses throughout the County up until at least 1962, many of which remain in use as residences.

Whites Valley Octagon School House on Route 670 in Mount Pleasant Township
Photo from Library of Congress collection

Bethany Borough was the site of the University of Northern Pennsylvania. Chartered in 1848, this facility was operated until 1857 by the Methodist Church in Bethany.

Energy Development History

Wayne County, throughout its history, has played a prime role in energy development. It continues to do so. It was instrumental to the development of the anthracite coal industry, with its early gravity railroads, the Delaware and Hudson Canal and its several other railroads that transported coal to the New York City area.

Lake Wallenpaupack was created to generate hydro- electric power and does so yet today. The Waymart Wind Farm, owned by Florida Power and Light Company now feeds electricity from another natural source, wind, into the national grid from its turbines located along the Moosic Mountain ridge.

Still another natural resource, the natural gas found in bedrock shale deposits, has been explored and has the potential to make the County an important producer of energy needed by the nation.

Wayne County's history is, indeed, a continuous story of energy production. As an illustration, a large solar farm project has been approved for Damascus Township and other relatively large scale solar projects are being proposed within the county.