



Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2020



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Summary

In 2020, 289 new archaeological sites were added to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) files, bringing the statewide total to 26,023 recorded sites. Although this appears to be consistent with an overall downward trend in site recording in recent years, we saw an uptick in 2019 that likely would have continued if not for the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately half of new sites were recorded through cultural resource management (CRM) projects. Despite the challenges of 2020, we continued to see contributions from independent research projects, members of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA), and long-time avocational archaeologists.

Site Recording Sources

As was true in 2019, the most significant sources of new sites in 2020 were CRM projects and the State Museum’s ongoing work to process the Fred Veigh collection. Together these accounted for over 80% of new sites. CRM projects added 163 new sites across the state, and the Veigh project added 73 new sites in Indiana, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

Sources of New Archaeological Sites in 2020

Source	Sites Recorded	%
CRM	163	56.40%
Individual Recorders	11	3.81%
Other Organizations	20	6.92%
SHPO Survey	1	0.35%
SMPA (Veigh Collection)	73	25.26%
SPA	15	5.19%
University Research	6	2.08%

SPA members from Chapters 22 (Ohio Valley) and 29 (North Fork) recorded 15 sites in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion Counties. These included rock shelters, lithic scatters and a petroglyph. In addition,

many previously recorded sites were updated by Chapter 22, and these updates include current site condition assessments and new color photos of artifacts and site areas. Other organizations that recorded sites from independent research projects included Allegheny Archaeology Research and the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA).

2020 Project Highlights

Various projects that contributed to the PASS files in 2020 are highlighted below. These articles were provided by guest authors and represent work that was completed over many years.

Research in the Buffalo Creek Drainage in Butler, Armstrong, and Allegheny Counties

Tom Rabbitt, SPA Chapter #22, Ohio Valley

The purpose of my research has been to put the Buffalo Creek Drainage into the archeological record/map. I have registered a multitude of sites, both rock shelters and open sites, in the Upper Buffalo Creek Drainage. Some of these sites were extensively investigated, but the majority were just sampled to determine their existence for registration purposes. Many of these sites—particularly the rock shelter sites—have been heavily collected or dug out over the years by various local individuals from the Kittanning area with no records maintained. Many of the rock shelters have also been destroyed by mineral extraction since registration, and although some were investigated by professional organizations, the findings were not published, and the locations of collections have been lost.



Figure 1. Chalk outlines of the figures that have been identified at the Buffalo Creek Point petroglyph site, 36AR0590.

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Buffalo Creek has always played the poor sister to the drainages flowing into the Allegheny from the east, such as the Clarion River, Redbank Creek, Mahoning Creek, Cowanshannock Creek, Pine Creek, Crooked Creek and the Kiskiminetas River. In looking at the maps contained in the various archeological publications, both old and new, this drainage is an archeological blank and not represented in the literature. What most people do not realize is that Buffalo Creek is the largest drainage on the west side of the Allegheny River from French Creek to the Ohio River in Pittsburgh. The watershed drains 171 square miles of eastern Butler, western Armstrong and a small portion of northern Allegheny County. The headwaters of Buffalo Creek are situated in Fairview Township north of Chicora Pa. and it flows 34.4 miles to its confluence with the Allegheny River in Freeport Pa. The lower 22 miles of the stream are considered navigable by the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission. The headwaters of Buffalo Creek come close to the headwaters of both the main branch of the Connoquenessing Creek and its tributary Bonnie Brook, Bear Creek which empties into the Allegheny at Parker Pa. across from the Parker's Landing Petroglyphs, and Sugarcreek which joins the Allegheny at East Brady. There are many other lower order streams that flow to the Allegheny and are easily accessed via the Buffalo Creek drainage. US Route #422 crosses Buffalo Creek in Worthington Pa., which is known to have been a major Indian trail running from Kittanning to New Castle.



Figure 2. View of a shelter in the Pine Run Rock Shelters #2 complex, 36BT0530.

The Upper Buffalo Creek Drainage is endowed with a multitude of rock shelters, with open sites tending to cluster on stream terraces, elevated floodplains, upland locations near springs, and particularly the headwaters of the main stream and its tributaries. The area of my research has been the Upper Buffalo Creek Drainage north from the bridge in West Winfield Pa. to Chicora Pa., encompassing the townships of West Franklin, Sugarcreek and North Buffalo in Armstrong County and Winfield, Clearfield, Donegal and Fairview Townships in Butler County. The main stream as well

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as its major tributaries (Rough Run, Long Run, Patterson Run, Little Buffalo Creek flowing through Fenelon Pa., and Little Buffalo Run) have all been investigated with sites recorded to varying degrees within these respective drainages.

The Lower Buffalo Creek Drainage south of the West Winfield Bridge, through the Buffalo Creek Gorge and then onto Freeport, does not reflect in the sites I have registered, although this section of the stream undoubtedly has a multitude of sites as you travel south towards the Allegheny. Of particular note is the fact that the early histories of Butler County allude to a contingent of French Soldiers that made their way up Buffalo Creek upon evacuating Fort Duquesne and wintered over in the vicinity of Rough Run when retreating to the French fort at Franklin Pa. These early histories also allude to a possible stone fortification about 3 miles up Buffalo Creek from the Allegheny which is also attributed to the French.

All cultural timeframes are well represented within the Upper Buffalo Creek drainage. There are undoubtedly numerous unregistered sites within this defined area and also a number of previously registered sites.

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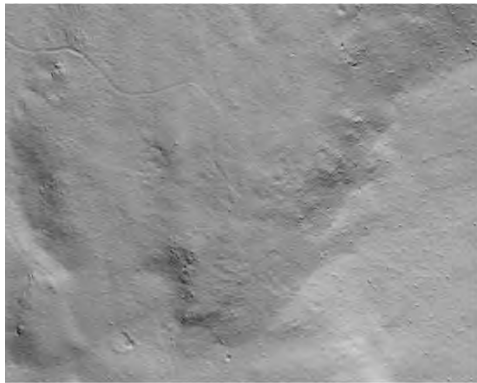
South Mountain Prehistoric Rhyolite Quarrying Project

Paul Marr, Department of Geography-Earth Science, Shippensburg University

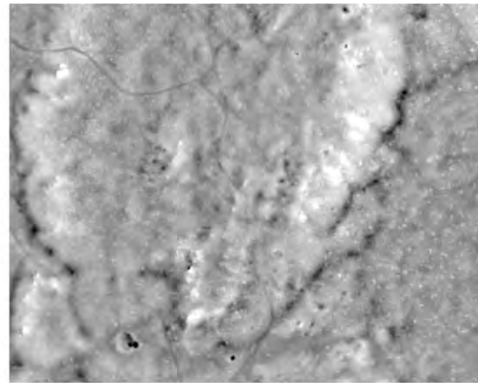
This project is a continuation and expansion of a South Mountain Partnership mini-grant awarded Paul Marr (SU) and John Wah (Matapeake Soils) in 2016. During fieldwork for the mini-grant we realized that the existing boundary information for the recorded rhyolite quarry sites was inaccurate and that many other sites were not recorded. To address the mapping needs a second project was started that would use the current suite of LiDAR-based terrain models to help identify areas of potential quarry activity (Figure 3). We developed a set of goals for this new project: (1) to locate and record all of the prehistoric rhyolite quarry sites, (2) map the site boundaries, (3) map and record the physical and site characteristics for each identifiable quarry pit, and (4) develop a database that could be used to improve the management of these sites. Sixteen new quarry sites were recorded on public land, bringing the total number of sites to 22. Using the terrain models and field reconnaissance the site boundaries have been more accurately mapped and digitized. Over 1500 individual quarry pits were mapped with a locational accuracy of < 40cm, with pit diameter, depth, and shape recorded for each. Finally, a database for the study area is being developed that contains quarry pit locations, site boundaries, past and current timber harvesting areas, modern roads, historic wagon roads, logging or “cat” tracks, forest metrics, and other useful cultural resource management data layers.

One site in particular, 36AD0569 (Green Cabin), is extremely interesting. It is situated on what appears to be an old periglacial slope failure or slip. A third project was started to examine this site using GPR to determine if this technology can be used to map the internal structure of the failure and whether it will pick up buried quarry pits (Figure 4). The GPR was run along a series of transects and then soil pits were excavated off of the quarry site to help verify our radargram interpretations (Figure 5).

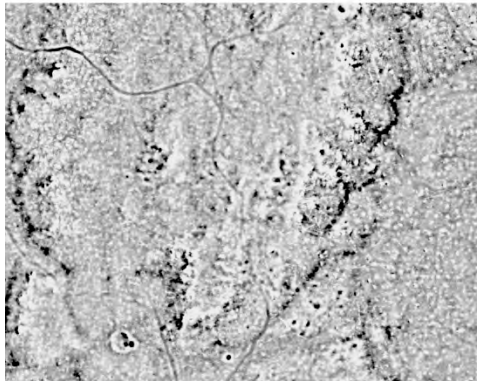
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Multi-directional hillshade



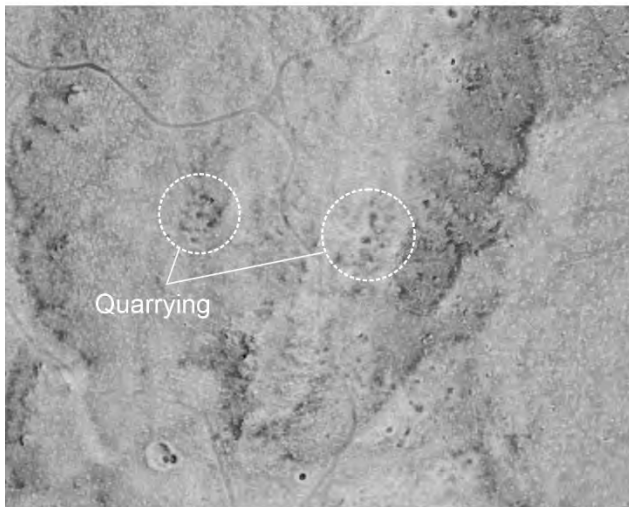
Local dominance model



Local relief model



Positive Openness Model



Final terrain model

Figure 3. LiDAR derived terrain models. The final terrain model has been used to highlight areas of potential quarrying, which are then field verified. As seen above, quarry pits cover the hillside. Wagon roads and a charcoal hearth are also visible.



Figure 4. Sean Cornell and Robert Joyce conducting GPR survey.

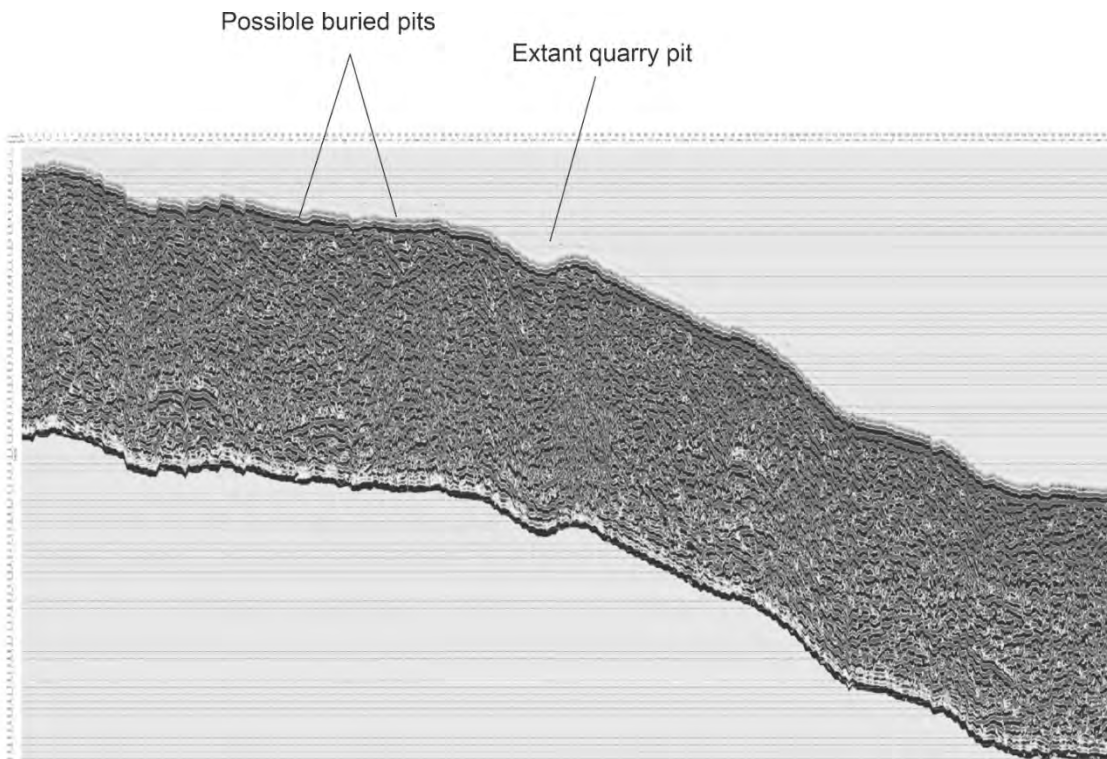


Figure 5. Example of a west to east GPR radargram from 36AD0569. Our interpretation of the data is that there are likely 2 buried quarry pits just west of a large pit that is still apparent on the surface.

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Our initial group has recently started collaborating with archaeologists working south of our study area. They have been excavating a small quarry site located on private land (36AD0576, Iron Springs), and their early results have been invaluable in helping us interpret findings. In the spring our combined team will start excavating another site on private land (not yet recorded). We hope to verify some of our results and test out a few new ideas.

There seems to be renewed interest in rhyolite quarrying on South Mountain after nearly 2 decades of inactivity. Why the sudden resurgence? In my mind it is due in large measure to a push by Roy Brubaker (Michaux State Forest) for better CRM data and Katie Hess (South Mountain Partnership) for providing funding for several quarry-related projects. Their foresight and behind-the-scenes work has paid dividends. Of course, as the number of projects has grown, so has the list of participants (my apologies if I have left someone out):

John Wah, soils; Lara Homsey-Messer, archaeology and geology; Mark Tucker, geology; Sean Cornell, geology and GPR; Paul Marr, modeling and mapping; Kate Peresolak, archaeology; Robert Bodnar, archaeology; Steve Nissley, experimental archaeology; Jack Cresson, experimental archaeology; Hettie Ballweber, archaeology; Robert Joyce, soils and GPR.

Sand and Gravel Quarry Project, Lawrence County

Thomas R. Baker, Thomas R. Baker, Archaeological Consultant

A Phase I Survey was completed for a proposed sand and gravel quarry operation project located in Lawrence County. A large block area of about 250 acres was surveyed and resulted in the recordation of 11 previously unrecorded sites and the relocation of one previously recorded site. These sites were identified as open habitation sites containing one or more precontact components, with a collective temporal range of occupation from the Paleoindian through Late Woodland periods. Two sites also contained historic components with occupations ranging in age from the early nineteenth century through the present. The precontact components consisted of lithic scatters of varying sizes associated with a series of repeated occupations of landforms adjacent to Slippery Rock Creek over almost the entire span of the precontact period. The historic components were represented by scatters of ceramic, glass, and metal artifacts associated with domestic buildings.



Figure 6. Gorget recovered from 36LR0360.

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Phase II investigations are currently in progress at seven of these sites. The results of this project will provide an opportunity to assess a series of closely related sites in the Slippery Rock Creek drainage valley, which has seen only minimal prior professional investigation.

Site Recording in Northwestern Pennsylvania

Andrew J. Myers, Allegheny National Forest, Marienville Ranger District

Prior to the 2020 field season, I was able to record 17 sites into the PHMC database through the CRGIS data entry system. These sites were identified over the years via private research interests rather than through compliance survey. The site types included four pre-Contact era rockshelters and nine open air campsites, a possible pre-Contact era village site, a Middle Woodland burial mound, a historic period village, and a historic farmstead. These sites are all located in the northwestern portion of the state in Forest, Jefferson, and Warren Counties.

I first began recording sites into the PASS files in 1990 during my first stint working as an archaeologist on the Allegheny National Forest. As much of this work is Phase I in nature, identifying and recording sites is the primary focus when engaged in this form of archaeology. The process creates a record by not only providing a location on the map where earlier people dwelled, but, as artifacts are recovered and the site number assigned along with field collection numbers, provenience is established that will follow the collection through time. This information becomes critical for students of archaeology who, hopefully, will seek to conduct research on the various collections once they are curated at the State Museum in Harrisburg. My objectives when conducting site inventory is to first locate a site on the landscape and then determine the extent. If at all possible, features such as hearths are identified and investigated. Investigations are designed to maximize the potential for recovering diagnostic artifacts that will aid in to determining who the people occupying the site might have been. These objectives should be reached with as minimal damage to the site as possible.

The following provides an overview of some of the sites entered into the PASS files in 2020. While the goal is to gather information that will help to clarify who the people were that are associated with a given site, many of these sites are found to be small, and diagnostics are infrequently recovered during initial Phase I testing. Many pre-Contact sites, when initially identified, are simply designated as lithic scatters that would require additional work through Phase II-type investigations in order to determine significance.

Perhaps the most important site recorded during this time was the Leonhart Mound (36Wa688). This late Middle Woodland mound, located in the old Leonhart cemetery in Warren County, was originally investigated by Harry Schoff in the 1930's and later by Wesley Bliss in 1942 (Carpenter 1971:281). Following an examination of Forest Service records and a review of the CRGIS database it was determined that the mound had never been recorded. Using the location description provided by Schoff (1937:20) the locality of the mound was field verified and observed to be in the corner of the cemetery overlooking the Allegheny River just as he had described it.



Figure 7. Leonhart Mound (36Wa688) looking west with possible cemetery boundary marker in foreground.

In order to create a record for the PASS files, the mound was recorded with a global positioning system (GPS) device. The feature was then measured and photo documented. It was determined that the mound feature measured 9 meters (29') north to south by 8 meters (26') east to west and exhibited a height of approximately 1 meter (3'). These measurements generally correspond with those taken by Schoff who determined the mound to "be a true mound 25 feet (8 meters) in diameter at the base and about 3 feet (0.9 m) above ground level." Carpenter (1971:281) suggested a slightly larger diameter of 25-30 feet (7.6-9.1 meters). There is evidence of disturbance to the northwest portion of the mound, which appears to have been partially dug out. A number of rocks appear on top of the mound and these were possibly removed from the interior chamber and placed on top. Once measurements were documented, several photos were taken. The photo record was designed to exhibit this important feature from a number of angles including reference to various recognizable points in the cemetery.

The majority of the sites recorded in 2020 were found on lands owned by the Collins Pine Corporation. Collins Pine Corporation is Pennsylvania's largest private land owner with holdings consisting of 51,395 hectares (127,000 acres) (Myers 2007:2). For the past twenty-one years I have inventoried sites on the property with the permission of the Land Manager. During this time numerous sites have been inventoried into the PASS files and one site, Indian Camp Run (36Fo65), has undergone extensive excavation since 1999.

Found in the hills above Indian Camp Run were a number of springhead type sites. This region of Pennsylvania is forested rather than agricultural, so many areas have never been plowed and any sites located in these densely forested landscapes can only be reached by penetrating through deep root systems that guard the buried deposits. Such was the case at two significant springhead sites found on the benches below springs. Indian Camp Run Spring No. 2 (36Fo367) and Collins Spring No. 3 (36Fo371) were two sites that begin near the heads of a series of springs and occupy the benches along the runs that extend for many meters below the head.

Site 36Fo367 was delineated by twelve positive STPs that produced a total of twenty-five artifacts. These were found over a space of 1.2 hectares (3 acres). STP 3 found on the northern side of the site produced one Early Woodland Meadowood point manufactured from Clarence Onondaga chert. STP 2 found on the southern portion of the site produced one whole biface and another biface fragment. STP 1, also located on the southern portion of the site, produced a polished slate rock that is phallic in shape and design.



Figure 8. Artifacts recovered from (36Fo367) including biface (l), phallic object (c), and Meadowood point (r).

Site 36Fo371 was delineated by the excavation of fifteen STPs that produced 119 artifacts including 93 lithics and 26 historic items. The site area is positioned on the benches below a quadruple headed spring and occupies a space of 0.72 hectares (1.78 acres), although the full extent of the site is currently unknown. A 1m² test unit was excavated near the head of the spring that produced an additional 47 artifacts including 45 lithics and 2 historic items. Diagnostics include a Madison triangle that was recovered in STP 6, excavated on the eastern side of the spring. A projectile point or knife form (PP/K) tentatively typed as a Steubenville Stemmed was recovered in Test Unit 1 found on the western bench a few meters below the head of the spring. This point was recovered in Feature 1, described as a hearth. Historic items recovered included wire wound nails, a file, and a number of glass fragments. Remnants in the form of an earthen foundation associated with a small house were identified approximately 60 meters (200') south of the springhead on the eastern stream bench. Based on the historic diagnostic remains a late 19th to early 20th century age is suggested for the historic occupation.



Figure 9. Looking south below springhead at the benches holding site 36Fo371 positioned above the run.



*Figure 10. Artifacts from 36Fo371: FC-8 triangle (l), FC-28 Steubenville Stemmed (c), FC-23 Ovoid biface (r).
Bottom FC-14 point base (l), FC-23 point base (r).*

In examining the Melish-Whiteside county maps of Venango County (PHMC 2020) dated from 1817, it is conceivable that the Collins access road that passes by both springhead sites could be the location of the old state road that linked Bald Eagles Nest with Presque Isle. This road was used by troops travelling to Lake Erie during the War of 1812 and crossed the river below the springs at a location known as Holeman's Ferry (Childs 1989:39). The ferry was located just west of the nearby Indian Camp Run (36Fo65) site. Many Native trails and early roads pass near spring heads that provide water for individuals and animals as they journey from point to point across the landscape.

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Rockshelters are a common temporary site type occupied by early inhabitants of the region. These locations offer protection from the elements and provide comfort and warmth when fires are lit. Many are dry inside and offer decent preservation for material goods including perishables.

Four of the sites identified on Collins Pine land were rockshelters. Two of these, Nebraska Rockshelter (36Fo376) and Nebraska Rockshelter No. 2 (36Fo382) were found in remote locations, high in the hills above the historic ghost town of Nebraska. Nebraska was a small late 19th century village and was the location of T.D. Collins' private residence and one of his sawmills (Casler 1976:904). The rockshelter sites were located in close proximity to, if not directly on, the Goschgoschink Path. This path led from West Hickory on the Allegheny River and followed a southerly course to the Clarion River near Helen Furnace where it joined the Venango-Chinklacamoose Path and continued east to Chinklacamoose (Clearfield) (Wallace 1987:61).

Nebraska Rockshelter (36Fo376) consists of a southeast facing overhang that offers a commanding view of the Tionesta Creek located below. The rockshelter includes a narrow opening that leads into a chamber that extends inward several meters beyond the rockshelter face. The rockshelter face measures approximately 6 meters (20') wide from side to side by 3 meters (10') deep from dripline to back wall. The ceiling height at the rockshelter face is around 1.70 meters (5.6'). The inner chamber extends approximately 12 meters (39') deep, but slopes upward in the back. One can enter the chamber from the front or the back end, although exiting from the back requires crawling over talus slope that has filled that end of the chamber. Ceiling height in the inner chamber reaches 2.35 meters (7.7 feet) near the center of the room. All told, the rockshelter exhibits approximately 30 square meters (98') of usable living space, and three or four people could occupy the inner chamber comfortably. Light surface troweling just inside the front of chamber indicated a hearth feature was present. A small amount of lithic material was recovered, including a sidescraper tool and pebble chert core fragments.



Figure 11. Nebraska Rockshelter (36Fo376) looking north at rockshelter face with entry point into inner chamber.

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A second rockshelter was found approximately 96 meters (316') southeast of the original site. This became known as Nebraska Rockshelter No. 2 (36Fo382). This rockshelter exhibits two loci that produced cultural remains. Locus 1 is oriented southwest and contains approximately 9 square meters (100 square feet) of space measuring 3 meters (10') north to south by 3 meters (10') east to west. The ceiling height ranges from 1.2 to 1.8 meters (c. 4-6') in height when measured along the rockshelter face. Found on the opposite side of the boulder occurs a second locus described as Locus 2. This is an east facing overhang that occupies a space of 20 square meters (208 square feet) measuring 5 meters (16') east to west by 4 meters (13') north to south. Ceiling height ranges from 1.2 to 1.8 meters (c. 4-6'). Light surface troweling at Locus 1 produced 13 grit tempered ceramics including one rim sherd and one chert lithic. The ceramics may be ascribable to the early Late Woodland Mahoning Cordmarked type. Locus 2 produced one chert flake found on the surface of the rockshelter floor.



Figure 12. Nebraska Rockshelter No. 2 (36Fo382) grit tempered cordmarked ceramics discovered while light surface troweling.

The largest site entered into the PASS files in 2020 was a former historic lumber era village known as Newtown (36Fo386). This site, also found on Collins Pine lands, is located along the Tionesta Creek a few kilometers upriver from the confluence with the Allegheny River. The village was situated on the eastern side of the Tionesta Creek on the floodplain and benches of the creek that have become known as Newtown Flats. Currently the former town exists only as a large historic opening that occupies a space of approximately 40 hectares (100 acres). The remnants of the bridge entering the town from the west can still be witnessed. One cement pier, that was located near the center of the bridge, remains standing in the middle of the creek. Wooden beams observed in the creek near the former bridge may represent the remains of a dam (log pond) that held the logs for the nearby sawmill location.

A review of historic literature pertaining to the region indicates that one of the early European settlers of the county, Mr. Ebenezer Kingsley, sold the land that would become Newtown to Mr. Hamilton Stow. Stow established a home there and operated the first sawmill, constructed by John Siverly and known as the Siverly mill (Childs 1989:117). In 1837, Wheeler and Dusenbury purchased timber in the vicinity of Newtown and then in 1839 built a mill in the village that would operate until 1911. The

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village was named by Mr. Stow Newton who ran the sawmill operation until 1865 (Childs 1989:117). Under the management of Nelson P. Wheeler and William Dusenbury the mill cut 3,000,000 board feet per year. The first successfully operated band sawmill in the United States was installed at Newtown (Childs 1989:117).

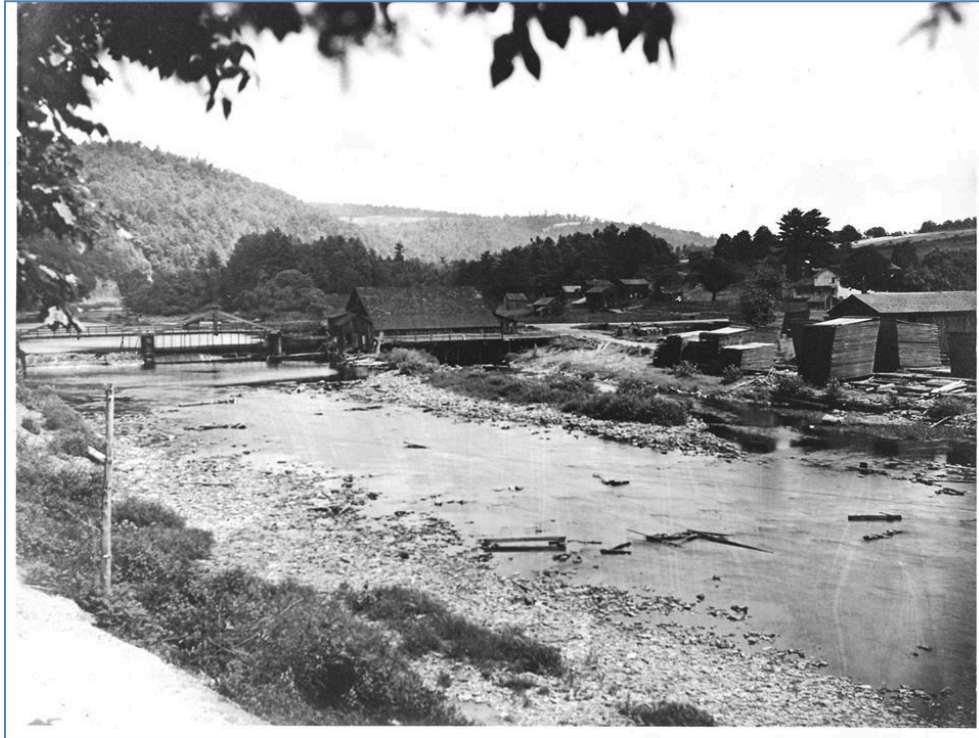


Figure 13. Looking northeast at bridge and sawmill Newtown (36Fo386). House sites are visible beyond stacked wood on left (Photo courtesy of Jeff Scott).



Figure 14. Similar picture as above with lone remaining pier from bridge leading into Newtown (36Fo386).

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Moving to the south into the Clarion River drainage in northern Jefferson County, two of the sites recorded in 2020 are located on lands formerly owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. In the early 1990s permission was granted to the author from the Conservancy to conduct testing at the Dutch Hill Rockshelter (36Je132). Later, permission was again sought and granted to test along the river below the rockshelter on a tract known as Och's-Reynolds. Site 36Je199, known as the Och's-Reynolds site, is a small open-air campsite located on a terrace above the Clarion River near a confluence with a small unnamed tributary. Testing here proved difficult as the site area is very hard to reach by foot and required packing in heavy equipment via old logging roads that employ a series of switch backs to navigate the steep hillslope down the river. The full extent of the site is currently unknown but is estimated to be 30 square meters (98') in size. Testing indicated a site buried by deep flood deposits and only a small amount of cultural material was recovered. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered. There was, however, one shallow basin shaped hearth feature identified that contained four lithics (small pressure flakes) and an associated FCR fragment. In all, the investigation produced 8 lithics, one anvil stone, two manuports in the form of creek pebbles, and a nail. Two lithics appear to be cutting/scraping tools. One was recovered in Level 4 near the hearth feature while another was found in Level 9 at 0.87 meters (2.10') below ground surface.



Figure 15. Looking northwest at Feature 1 becoming exposed at Ochs-Reynolds (36Je199) site.

Dutch Hill Historic (36Je200) is located approximately 0.6 kilometers north of the Ochs-Reynolds site. An old wagon road leads to the site remnants in a large historic opening estimated to occupy approximately 0.91 hectares (2.26 acres) of space. Found inside the opening are the remains of two cut stone foundations and other earthen features where a number of structures once stood. If the road is traversed during the spring of the year, heirloom variety daffodils can be witnessed in places leading into the site area which suggests a domestic farmstead rather than industrial type site.

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The two former structures have been referred to as locus 1 and 2. Locus 1 is a cut stone foundation constructed within an earthen habitation flat. This locus measures approximately 10 meters (33') north to south by 9 meters (30') east to west. A cellar feature that measures approximately 1 meter (3') deep and has become filled with cut stones that have collapsed inside it occurs on the eastern side of the foundation. Locus 2 occurs 33 meters (108') north of Locus 1. This was a larger structure measuring approximately 20 meters (66') north to south by 20 meters (66') east to west. In similar fashion to Locus 1, this structure also exhibits an earthen habitation flat and a cellar that occurs on the eastern side of the structure. Cut stones were found to be collapsed inside the cellar, which would appear to be greater than 1 meter (3') in depth. Found on the southeast portion of the foundation occurs a circular depression 2 meters (7') in diameter and around 0.30 meters (1') in depth that might represent a former latrine location. Two dead apple trees occur on the south side of the former structure.



Figure 16. Cut stone foundation known as Locus 2 looking north, Clarion River in back at site (36Je200).

Found approximately 13 meters (43') north of Locus 1 and between the two larger structures was a small rectangular earthen foundation measuring 4 meters (13') north to south by 3 meters (10') east to west and is estimated to be around 0.30 meters (1') in depth. The nature and function of this former structure is uncertain. Reconnaissance also located the remains of a former swinging bridge that once crossed the Clarion River north of the site area. Pipes and some metal rope were noted along with a stone abutment witnessed on the opposite shore. The footbridge is depicted on a Pennsylvania Highway Department map of western Elk County dated May 31, 1911 (Patton 2003:7). Artifacts witnessed scattered about the site area include historic ceramics with transfer print design, medicine bottle fragments, brick fragments, barrel staves, and the metal parts of a wood or coal burning stove. The site area was mapped, recorded with GPS, and photographed to create a record.

This write-up has provided a brief overview of a few sites recorded into the PASS files in 2020. The region of western Pennsylvania under discussion is unlike many areas of the state in that the option of locating and recording sites in plowed field rarely occurs. Many sites lay buried under the surface of the forest floor and occur in remote locations that are often challenging to reach. The goals I establish when inventorying sites is to first identify a site location and delineate the size and, if possible,

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locate features and recover diagnostics, all while keeping disturbance to a minimum. Certain historic sites can be identified based on data gleaned from the written record including old maps, deed book volumes, and county histories. Pennsylvania has an important cultural heritage and identifying and documenting sites provides a permanent record that pays homage to the state's prior inhabitants and serves to save the past for future generations.

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PASS Site Data Entry Internship

Luke Nicosia, Dickinson College, '21

During my junior year at Dickinson College, I had plenty of uncertainty for what would come after graduation. While I was strongly interested in archaeology—majoring in it, as well as in mathematics and Classical studies—I had yet to specifically articulate my long or short-term career goals beyond considering Mediterranean Archaeology. In September of 2019, I was encouraged to apply for a volunteer position offered by the PHMC for entering site data from the Veigh collection into CRGIS. Donated to the State Museum in 2016, the Veigh collection contains artifacts from over 1,800 pre-Contact and historic sites all over Pennsylvania, and processing is likely to last for many more years. I was drawn to this project given my interests in gaining general internship experience in archaeology, as well as to pursue my personal passions for local history and data processing. My time at the PHMC unexpectedly aided me in realizing a sincere appreciation for the material culture of the Northeast.

My work on this project consisted of entering site data for approximately 200 loci across southwestern Pennsylvania—many of which represent sites that were never recorded—into the PASS files. Working with digitized quad maps, artifact data inventoried in the State Museum’s archaeology lab, and SHPO’s robust CRGIS program, I researched and coded several key groups of information for each site, such as: location, site type, and geological and hydrologic characteristics. I also was given instruction on how to use GIS software to map new sites or to update their boundaries based on new information. Previously, I had only used GIS for parcel research on historic properties research in upstate New York. Learning the versatility of this software, and especially how sites are recorded and stored at the state level, proved to be an incredibly educational experience.



Figure 17. Luke and his assistant desk manager, Fitz, doing remote volunteer work on site recording projects.



Figure 18. A small sample of artifacts that were recovered from site 36WH0271 and curated as part of the Veigh collection. Image courtesy of the State Museum, Section of Archaeology.

Progress on the Veigh collection was a team effort. The data entry I was doing was the last step in site processing. Certain sites, for example, contained thousands of individual artifacts that needed to be inventoried prior to data entry. The nature of this project, therefore, offered me opportunities to help with other projects related to site recording. In addition to the Veigh collection, I did data entry for new and updated sites from two other local archaeologists: Jim Allen and Tom Rabbitt; the former shared with PHMC surface-collected sites throughout Lancaster County, while the latter—who has contributed to this report as well—provided information on rock-shelter sites in Armstrong and Butler Counties. I also assisted in the archaeology lab processing Veigh artifacts and recently-excavated finds from Fort Hunter's (36Da159) 2019 field season conducted by the State Museum. This experience served as a foil to my other data entry work. While I was at the end of the processing chain with entering information into the electronic PASS records, working in the lab allowed me to interact hands-on with artifacts fresh from the soil or shelf.

In reflecting on my time at PHMC—both in-person and, after March, digitally—my volunteer work was not only the most educationally enjoyable experience I have ever had, it had a profound impact on my career aspirations. While I was initially interested in working in the Mediterranean, learning about Pennsylvania material culture, how to identify pre-Contact lithics and ceramics, and how site information is recorded, led me to realize how much archaeology there is in the United States, and how meaningful it was to me to assist in its curation. The information and connections I made over such a tumultuous year not only assisted me in my current Honors Thesis project, it helped me finally answer the question of what comes next. Because of my time at PHMC, I realized that my true passions in archaeology lay in continuing my education in Cultural Resource Management here in the United States.

SHPO Survey Activities

Most of the PASS program's planned activities for 2020 were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to devote staff time to testing and data validation for the SHPO's upcoming transfer to PA-SHARE, which will replace CRGIS. We continued to support site recording efforts from consultants, avocational archaeologists, and others during this time, and we look forward to resuming our internship program, outreach activities, and various survey and documentation projects.

For more information, please contact us at ra-crgis@pa.gov!

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey
Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2020

Data Summary and Maps

County	1/1/2021	1/1/2020	New	Deletions**	Density*
Adams	591	585	6	-	1.12 sites / sq. mile
Allegheny	763	761	2	-	1.05 sites / sq. mile
Armstrong	591	587	4	-	0.91 sites / sq. mile
Beaver	413	413	-	-	0.94 sites / sq. mile
Bedford	349	348	1	-	0.34 sites / sq. mile
Berks	992	983	9	-	1.15 sites / sq. mile
Blair	130	130	-	-	0.25 sites / sq. mile
Bradford	357	357	-	-	0.31 sites / sq. mile
Bucks	473	472	1	-	0.77 sites / sq. mile
Butler	539	524	15	-	0.68 sites / sq. mile
Cambria	219	219	-	-	0.32 sites / sq. mile
Cameron	72	72	-	-	0.18 sites / sq. mile
Carbon	177	176	1	-	0.44 sites / sq. mile
Centre	570	569	1	-	0.51 sites / sq. mile
Chester	1072	1057	15	-	1.41 sites / sq. mile
Clarion	212	210	2	-	0.36 sites / sq. mile
Clearfield	116	116	-	-	0.1 sites / sq. mile
Clinton	229	229	-	-	0.25 sites / sq. mile
Columbia	59	59	-	-	0.12 sites / sq. mile
Crawford	494	489	5	-	0.49 sites / sq. mile
Cumberland	234	231	3	-	0.42 sites / sq. mile
Dauphin	271	267	4	-	0.52 sites / sq. mile
Delaware	188	188	-	-	1.02 sites / sq. mile
Elk	440	438	2	-	0.55 sites / sq. mile
Erie	349	348	1	-	0.43 sites / sq. mile
Fayette	591	589	2	-	0.74 sites / sq. mile
Forest	398	351	47	-	0.95 sites / sq. mile
Franklin	454	454	-	-	0.6 sites / sq. mile
Fulton	80	80	-	-	0.18 sites / sq. mile
Greene	501	498	3	-	0.87 sites / sq. mile
Huntingdon	234	232	2	-	0.26 sites / sq. mile
Indiana	492	484	8	-	0.6 sites / sq. mile
Jefferson	200	198	2	-	0.31 sites / sq. mile
Juniata	132	132	-	-	0.34 sites / sq. mile
Lackawanna	86	86	-	-	0.19 sites / sq. mile
Lancaster	1631	1628	3	-	1.72 sites / sq. mile

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey
Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2020

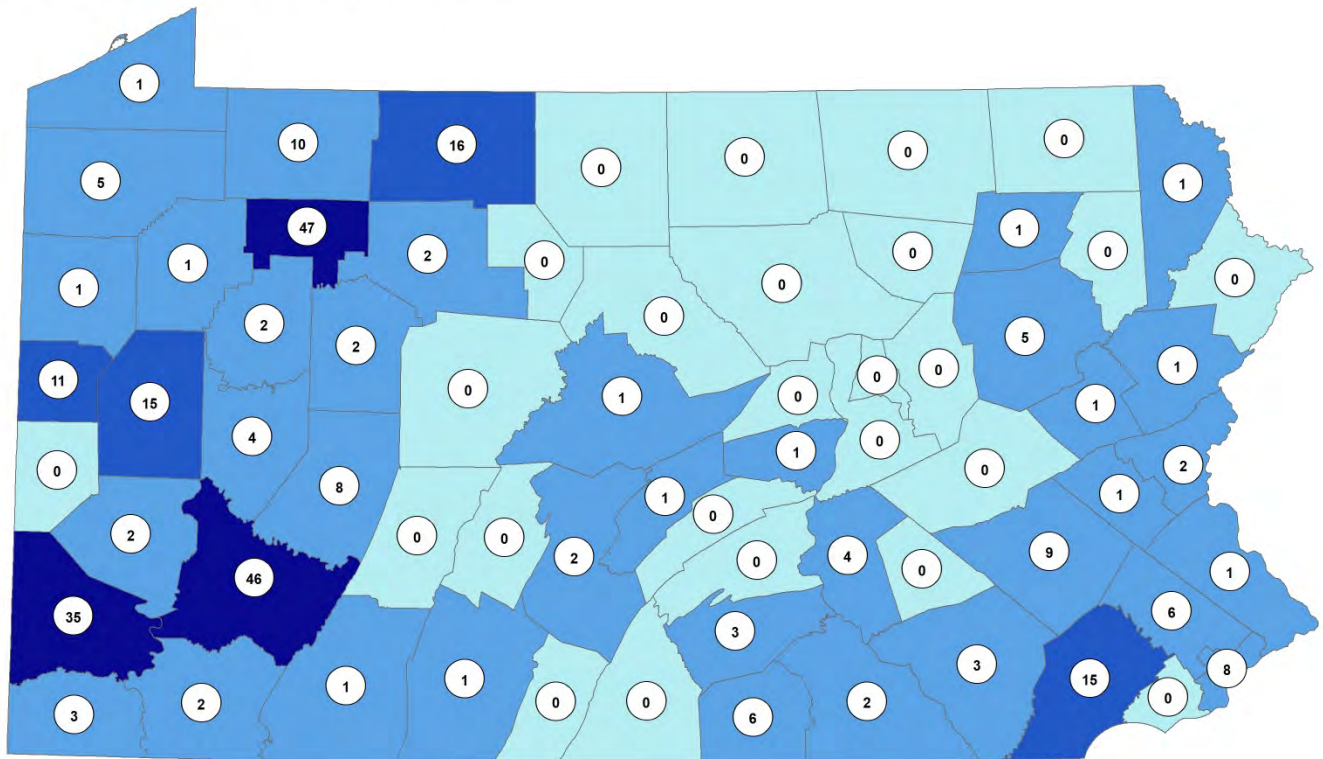
County	1/1/2021	1/1/2020	New	Deletions**	Density*
Lawrence	360	349	11	-	0.98 sites / sq. mile
Lebanon	567	567	-	-	1.56 sites / sq. mile
Lehigh	377	376	1	-	1.08 sites / sq. mile
Luzerne	353	348	5	-	0.4 sites / sq. mile
Lycoming	354	354	-	-	0.29 sites / sq. mile
McKean	339	323	16	-	0.34 sites / sq. mile
Mercer	276	275	1	-	0.41 sites / sq. mile
Mifflin	121	120	1	-	0.28 sites / sq. mile
Monroe	297	296	1	-	0.49 sites / sq. mile
Montgomery	503	498	6	1	1.01 sites / sq. mile
Montour	94	94	-	-	0.72 sites / sq. mile
Northampton	359	357	2	-	0.95 sites / sq. mile
Northumberland	200	200	-	-	0.44 sites / sq. mile
Perry	90	90	-	-	0.16 sites / sq. mile
Philadelphia	247	240	8	1	1.91 sites / sq. mile
Pike	271	271	-	-	0.5 sites / sq. mile
Potter	53	53	-	-	0.05 sites / sq. mile
Schuylkill	100	100	-	-	0.13 sites / sq. mile
Snyder	299	298	1	-	0.91 sites / sq. mile
Somerset	494	493	1	-	0.46 sites / sq. mile
Sullivan	33	33	-	-	0.07 sites / sq. mile
Susquehanna	229	229	-	-	0.27 sites / sq. mile
Tioga	182	182	-	-	0.16 sites / sq. mile
Union	151	151	-	-	0.47 sites / sq. mile
Venango	327	326	1	-	0.48 sites / sq. mile
Warren	697	687	10	-	0.77 sites / sq. mile
Washington	1833	1798	35	-	2.14 sites / sq. mile
Wayne	309	308	1	-	0.42 sites / sq. mile
Westmoreland	1207	1162	46	1	1.18 sites / sq. mile
Wyoming	130	129	1	-	0.33 sites / sq. mile
York	472	470	2	-	0.52 sites / sq. mile
TOTALS	26,023	25,737	289	3	0.58 sites / sq. mile

*Density is measured as “x sites / 1 square mile.” It is calculated by dividing the number of recorded sites in the county by the area of the county in square miles.

**Sites were deleted in Montgomery and Westmoreland Counties because they were duplicates of other recorded sites. One site was deleted in Philadelphia because two overlapping components of the same site had received unique trinomials, and they have been merged into a single site.

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

Newly Recorded Sites during 2020



New Sites per County



New Sites per County



Map displaying the number of new sites recorded in each county last year.

Eleven Counties with the Greatest Increase in Sites during 2020

County	Number Recorded	% of Total Increase
Forest	47	16.26%
Westmoreland	46	15.92%
Washington	35	12.11%
McKean	16	5.54%
Butler	15	5.19%
Chester	15	5.19%
Lawrence	11	3.81%
Warren	10	3.46%
Berks	9	3.11%
Philadelphia	8	2.77%
Indiana	8	2.77%
TOTAL	220	76.12%

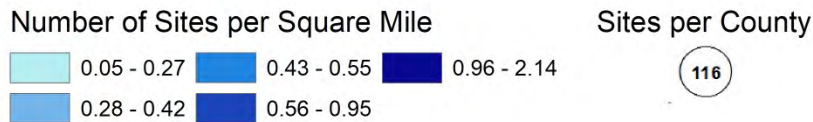
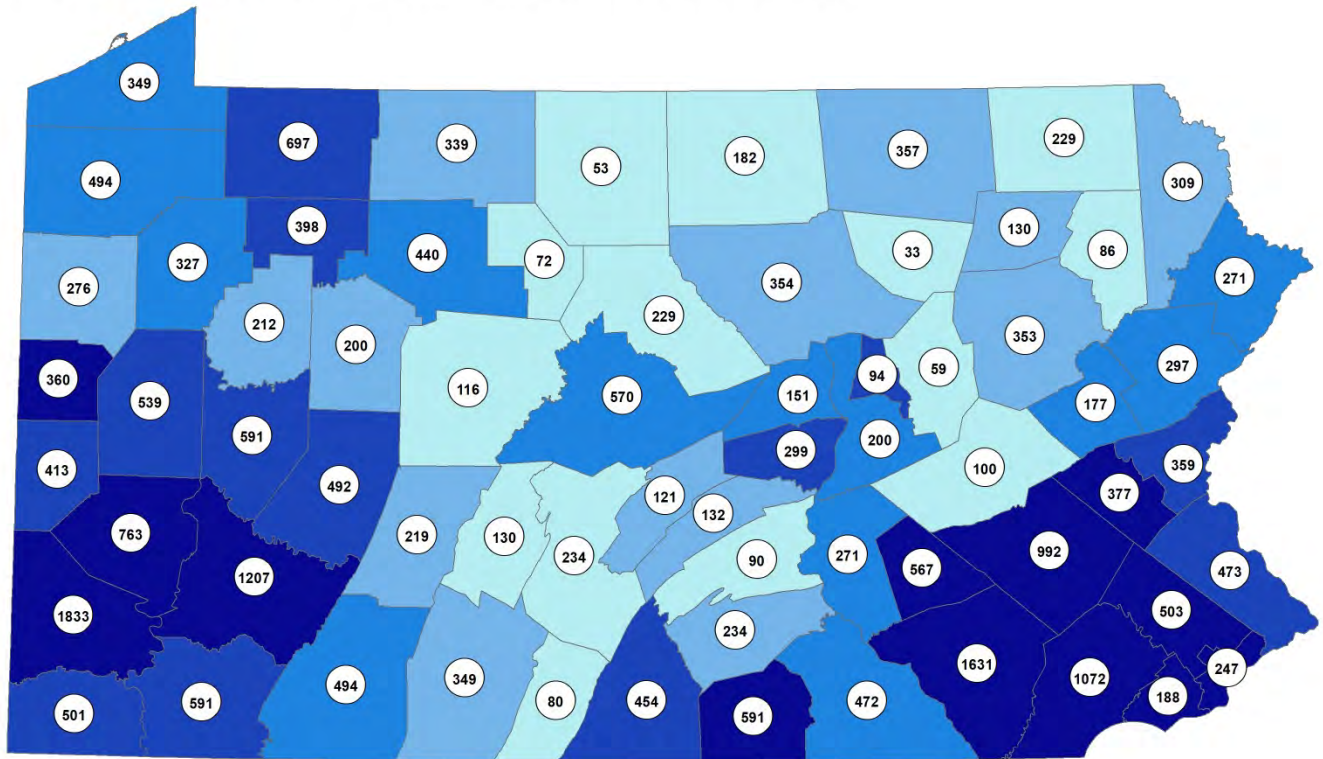
Ten Counties with the Greatest Density of Recorded Sites

County	Sites / Sq. Mile
Washington	2.14
Philadelphia	1.91
Lancaster	1.72
Lebanon	1.56
Chester	1.41
Westmoreland	1.18
Berks	1.15
Adams	1.12
Lehigh	1.08
Allegheny	1.05

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey
Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2020

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

Site Densities/Counts per County as of January 1, 2021



 Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Map displaying site densities and total counts per county.

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey
Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2020

Ten Counties with the Highest Numbers of Recorded Sites

County	Number	% of Total Sites
Washington	1833	7.04%
Lancaster	1631	6.27%
Westmoreland	1207	4.64%
Chester	1072	4.12%
Berks	992	3.81%
Allegheny	763	2.93%
Warren	697	2.68%
Adams	591	2.27%
Armstrong	591	2.27%
Fayette	591	2.27%
TOTAL	9968	38.30%

Ten Counties with the Lowest Numbers of Recorded Sites

County	Number	% of Total Sites	Observations
Sullivan	33	0.13%	<i>No change from 2018</i>
Potter	53	0.20%	<i>No change from 2019</i>
Columbia	59	0.23%	<i>No change from 2017</i>
Cameron	72	0.28%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
Fulton	80	0.31%	<i>No change from 2018</i>
Lackawanna	86	0.33%	<i>No change from 2019</i>
Perry	90	0.35%	<i>No change from 2019</i>
Montour	94	0.36%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
Schuylkill	100	0.38%	<i>No change from 2019</i>
Clearfield	116	0.45%	<i>No change from 2018</i>
TOTAL	783	3.01%	