Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2018

Summary

In 2018, 285 new archaeological sites were added to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) files. This represents a continued downward trend in site recording numbers since 2015, when we recorded a ten-year high of 635 sites. The majority of new sites have been documented by cultural resource management (CRM) surveys. Projects recording larger numbers of sites were located in Philadelphia County, and Forest and Warren Counties which are partially covered by the Allegheny National Forest.

What Was New with PASS in 2018?

2018 saw substantial changes to the ways in which we document sites. These changes aim to balance greater consistency and accuracy in the site records with the need to engage new (and long-standing) partners in documenting and preserving our archaeological heritage. PASS-related changes and projects are outlined below.

Revised PASS Form and Re-Introduced Abbreviated Form

SHPO and State Museum archaeologists followed the 2017 changes to the isolated find and non-site collection documentation with a revised PASS form. The new form was released in January 2018. Major changes were explained at the 2018 Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) Annual Meeting, and they were summarized in the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Blog: https://pahistoricpreservation.com/dont-pass-this-post-about-archaeology/.

Along with the changes to the full PASS form, we re-introduced a 2-page version of the form that is designed for use by avocational archaeologists, local museums and historical societies, and any groups that wish to record sites but may not have experience documenting sites. The summary nature of the form is designed to capture minimal site data (what was found and where it was located), without the documentation requirements creating a barrier to sharing that

The new abbreviated PASS form.

information. In addition, this form is particularly useful in cases when no excavation has been conducted, if working with legacy collections, or to record surface features in the field. A fillable PDF version of the form with instructions can be downloaded from the PA SHPO's Forms and Guidance page: https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/PASS_collector_v4.pdf.

Electronic Submission

In April, we opened the data entry portion of the CRGIS website to external submissions. Instead of completing and e-mailing a PDF version of the PASS form to register new sites, recorders now submit site information directly into the CRGIS database. The data entry fields replace the PASS form, and additional documentation such as maps, artifact catalogs, and photographs are uploaded to the record as attachments. This process guarantees that the site records in CRGIS are kept current, since the data and mapping are fully available as soon as a site number is assigned. No more delay and backlog in site processing!

PASS File Contractors

Complementing our ongoing efforts to clean our files as part of the SHPO Digitization Project, we hired two additional independent contractors to focus specifically on gaps and problems within the resource files. This project has added to CRGIS approximately 230 previously-recorded sites, filling holes in the electronic version of the PASS files that have been present, in some cases, for decades. Specific tasks within this project included: adding to CRGIS approximately 140 sites located within Gettysburg National Military Park, continued examination of sites within the Allegheny National Forest, cleaning up isolated find files, and adding to CRGIS electronic versions of submitted PASS forms. Although some "mystery" PASS forms remain, the amount of information that was not accessible to researchers has been significantly reduced.

We also located many older site forms that had never received PASS numbers. Of these, 64 were assessed against the site identification criteria, given new numbers, and added to CRGIS.

Site Recording Sources

In addition to the sites recorded through CRM surveys and SHPO clean-up efforts, lesser numbers of new sites have also come from individual recorders, university projects, and SPA chapters, although no individual projects made substantial contributions in the past year. Some sites have been recorded as part of ongoing research and laboratory projects that are expected to yield additional new sites in 2019 and possibly in 2020. These are highlighted below.

Sources of New Archaeological Sites in 2018

Source	Sites Recorded
CRM	171
Individual Recorders	2
Other Organizations	2
SHPO Digitization and File Cleaning	64
SHPO Survey	18
SPA Chapters	16
State Agency - DCNR	1
State Museum Collections	6
University Projects	5

Fred Veigh Collection

Fred Veigh was an archaeologist and collector who was active in the SPA, on PHMC excavations, and in the Carnegie Field Associate program. His carefully-documented collection was donated to the State Museum in March of 2016 and may contain as many as 2,000 collection areas, some of which have not yet been recorded in the PASS files. During 2018 the State Museum staff recorded a handful of new sites in Indiana County while processing the collection. As this project continues over the next few years, it will significantly contribute to our understanding of site distributions in southwestern PA and other portions of the state.

More information about the Veigh collection can be found in *This Week in Pennsylvania Archaeology*: https://twipa.blogspot.com/2018/08/news-from-lab-fred-veigh-collection.html.

Rhyolite Research in the South Mountain Region

In 2017, Shippensburg University's department of Geography and Earth Science and Matapeake Soil & Environmental Consultants developed a predictive model for rhyolite quarries in the Michaux State Forest. Building on the LiDAR analysis conducted for the model, Paul Marr from Shippensburg has been conducted a field survey and detailed mapping of the quarry pits on South Mountain. So far the project has identified three previously-unrecorded clusters of quarry pits, with a likelihood that more additional sites may be documented as the work is completed.

SHPO Survey Activities

As a program, the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey is expanding to conduct limited surface survey and site recordation on public lands, often as part of existing project partnerships. Eighteen new sites were added to the PASS files through SHPO staff and intern activities. These included: a dry-laid rock pile or cairn in the Michaux State Forest, Cumberland County; the remains of a farmstead in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), McKean County; and sixteen historic-period domestic, agricultural, and industrial sites in Ridley Creek State Park, Delaware County. In addition, we documented updates and refined the boundaries for 4 previously-recorded sites in Warren and McKean Counties in the ANF.

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

County	1/1/2019	1/1/2018	New	Deletions**	Density*	
Adams	577	568	9	-	1.10	sites / sq. mi
Allegheny	749	737	12	-	1.03	sites / sq. mi
Armstrong	581	580	1	-	0.89	sites / sq. mi
Beaver	411	405	6	-	0.93	sites / sq. mi
Bedford	347	346	1	-	0.34	sites / sq. mi
Berks	976	973	3	-	1.13	sites / sq. mi
Blair	129	127	2	-	0.24	sites / sq. mi
Bradford	357	353	4	-	0.31	sites / sq. mi
Bucks	466	463	3	-	0.76	sites / sq. mi
Butler	507	502	5	-	0.64	sites / sq. mi
Cambria	218	217	1	-	0.32	sites / sq. mi
Cameron	72	72	0	-	0.18	sites / sq. mi
Carbon	157	157	0	-	0.39	sites / sq. mi
Centre	566	553	13	-	0.51	sites / sq. mi
Chester	1,036	1,031	8	3	1.36	sites / sq. mi
Clarion	210	207	3	-	0.35	sites / sq. mi
Clearfield	116	114	2	-	0.10	sites / sq. mi
Clinton	227	227	0	-	0.25	sites / sq. mi
Columbia	59	59	0	-	0.12	sites / sq. mi
Crawford	489	487	2	-	0.48	sites / sq. mi
Cumberland	229	227	2	-	0.41	sites / sq. mi
Dauphin	259	256	3	-	0.50	sites / sq. mi
Delaware	187	168	19	-	1.02	sites / sq. mi
Elk	401	388	13	-	0.50	sites / sq. mi
Erie	346	346	0	-	0.43	sites / sq. mi
Fayette	583	581	2	-	0.73	sites / sq. mi
Forest	339	318	21	-	0.81	sites / sq. mi
Franklin	442	442	0	-	0.59	sites / sq. mi
Fulton	80	79	1	-	0.18	sites / sq. mi
Greene	498	484	14	-	0.86	sites / sq. mi
Huntingdon	232	230	2	-	0.26	sites / sq. mi
Indiana	477	472	5	-	0.58	sites / sq. mi
Jefferson	198	196	2	-	0.30	sites / sq. mi
Juniata	127	126	1	-	0.33	sites / sq. mi
Lackawanna	84	80	4	-	0.19	sites / sq. mi
Lancaster	1,619	1,612	7	-	1.71	sites / sq. mi

County	1/1/2019	1/1/2018	New	Deletions**	Density*	
Lawrence	343	343	0	-	0.93	sites / sq. mi
Lebanon	566	563	3	-	1.56	sites / sq. mi
Lehigh	368	362	6	-	1.06	sites / sq. mi
Luzerne	344	341	3	-	0.39	sites / sq. mi
Lycoming	354	354	0	-	0.29	sites / sq. mi
McKean	312	307	10	5	0.31	sites / sq. mi
Mercer	275	275	0	-	0.41	sites / sq. mi
Mifflin	120	120	0	-	0.28	sites / sq. mi
Monroe	288	284	4	-	0.47	sites / sq. mi
Montgomery	496	492	4	-	1.00	sites / sq. mi
Montour	94	94	0	-	0.72	sites / sq. mi
Northampton	352	352	0	-	0.94	sites / sq. mi
Northumberland	200	198	2	-	0.44	sites / sq. mi
Perry	89	88	1	-	0.16	sites / sq. mi
Philadelphia	233	218	15	-	1.81	sites / sq. mi
Pike	269	267	2	-	0.50	sites / sq. mi
Potter	51	49	2	-	0.05	sites / sq. mi
Schuylkill	98	98	0	-	0.13	sites / sq. mi
Snyder	297	297	0	-	0.91	sites / sq. mi
Somerset	406	404	2	-	0.38	sites / sq. mi
Sullivan	33	32	1	-	0.07	sites / sq. mi
Susquehanna	226	222	4	-	0.27	sites / sq. mi
Tioga	182	179	3	-	0.16	sites / sq. mi
Union	150	150	0	-	0.47	sites / sq. mi
Venango	326	320	6	-	0.48	sites / sq. mi
Warren	680	651	29	-	0.75	sites / sq. mi
Washington	1,760	1,754	6	-	2.05	sites / sq. mi
Wayne	308	308	0	-	0.42	sites / sq. mi
Westmoreland	1,148	1,138	10	-	1.12	sites / sq. mi
Wyoming	129	129	0	-	0.32	sites / sq. mi
York	470	469	1	-	0.52	sites / sq. mi
TOTALS	25,318	25,043	285	8	0.56	sites / sq. mi

*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.

**Chester County deletions involved removing PASS numbers from standing structures and buildings that are already recorded in the SHPO historic resource files and which were never investigated archaeologically. Deletions in McKean County were cases in which one site had received two different numbers.
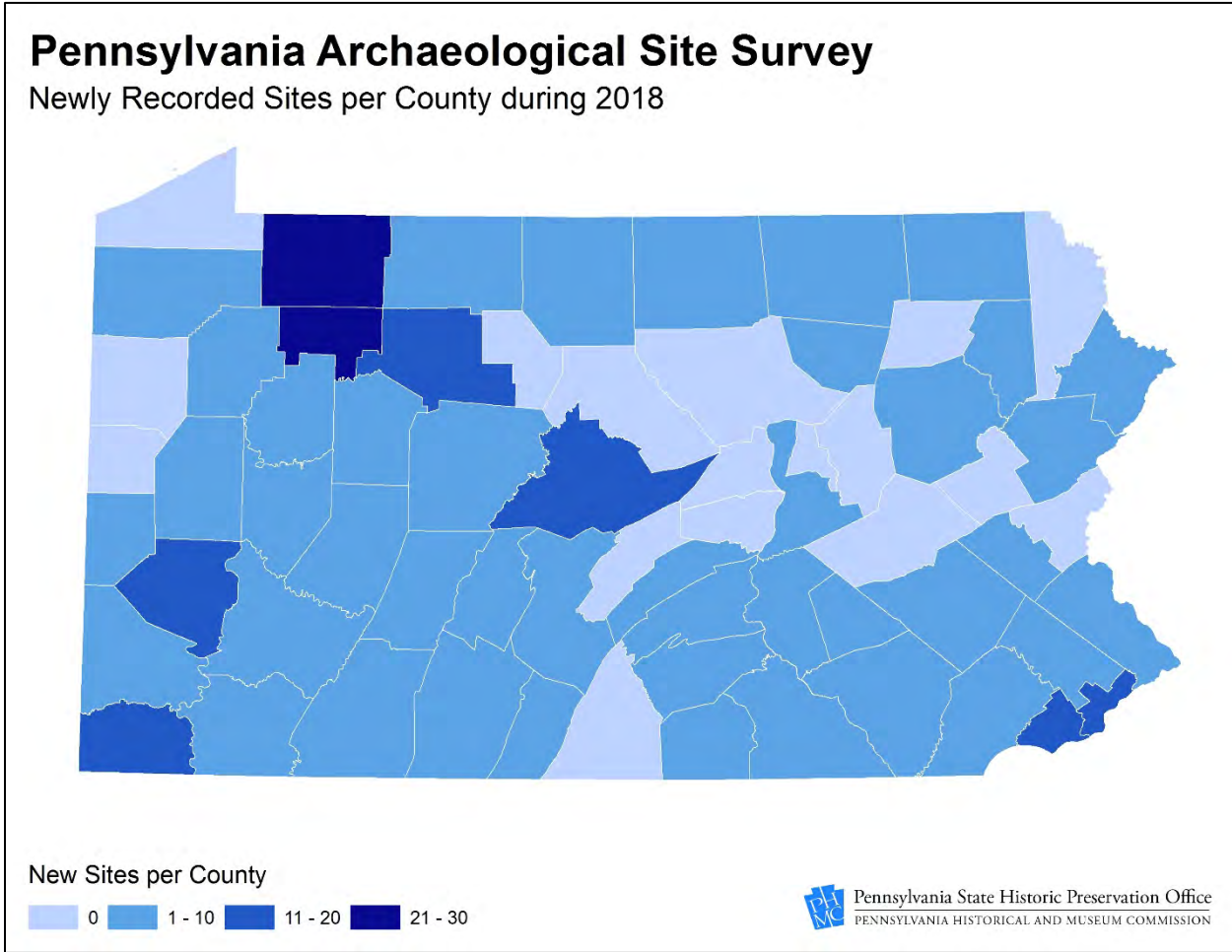
Map displaying the number of new sites recorded in each county last year.

Twelve Counties with the Greatest Increase in Sites during 2018

Ranking	County	Number Recorded	% of Total Increase
1	Warren	29	10.18%
2	Forest	21	7.37%
3	Delaware	19	6.67%
4	Philadelphia	15	5.26%
5	Greene	14	4.91%
6	Elk	13	4.56%
6	Centre	13	4.56%
7	Allegheny	12	4.21%
8	McKean	10	3.51%
8	Westmoreland	10	3.51%
9	Adams	9	3.16%
10	Chester	8	2.81%
Total		173	60.70%

Distribution of Increase in Number of Sites between 1/1/2018 and 1/1/2019

Counties	# of New Sites
17	0
8	1
11	2
7	3
5	4
2	5
4	6
1	7
1	8

Counties	# of New Sites
1	9
2	10
1	12
2	13
1	14
1	15
1	19
1	21
1	29

Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey
Site Densities per County as of January 1, 2019

Number of Sites per Square Mile
- 0.05 - 0.27
- 0.28 - 0.41
- 0.42 - 0.58
- 0.59 - 0.94
- 0.94 - 2.05

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
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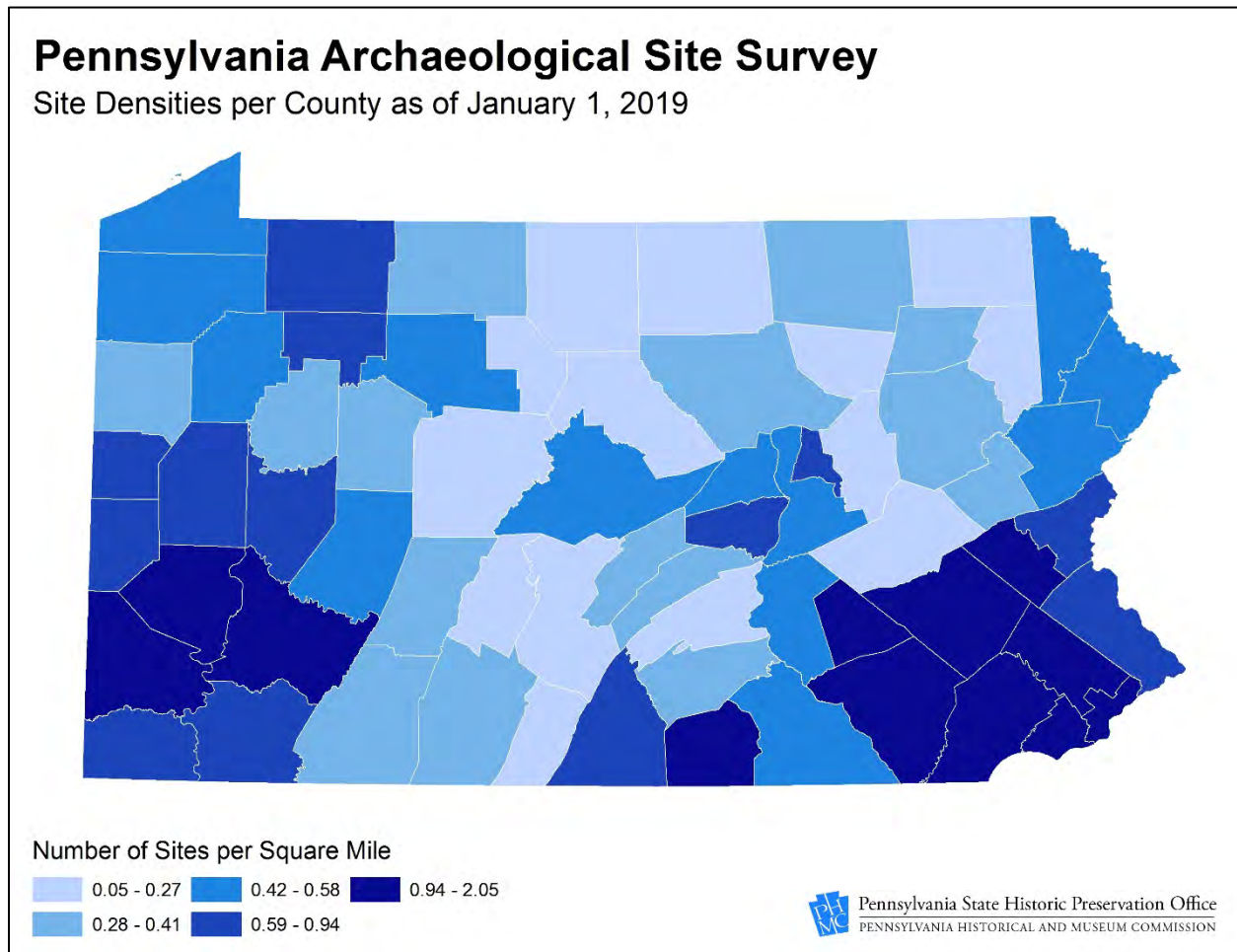
Map displaying site densities per county.

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Ten Counties with the Highest Numbers of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Number	% of Total Sites
1	Washington	1760	6.95%
2	Lancaster	1619	6.39%
3	Westmoreland	1148	4.53%
4	Chester	1036	4.09%
5	Berks	976	3.85%
6	Allegheny	749	2.96%
7	Warren	680	2.69%
8	Fayette	583	2.30%
9	Armstrong	581	2.29%
10	Adams	577	2.28%
Total		9709	38.35%

Ten Counties with the Greatest Density of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Sites / Sq. Mile
1	Washington	2.05
2	Philadelphia	1.81
3	Lancaster	1.71
4	Lebanon	1.56
5	Chester	1.36
6	Berks	1.13
7	Westmoreland	1.12
8	Adams	1.10
9	Lehigh	1.06
10	Allegheny	1.03

Ten Counties with the Lowest Numbers of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Number	% of Total Sites	Observations
67	Sullivan	33	0.13%	
66	Potter	51	0.20%	
65	Columbia	59	0.23%	*No change from 2017*
64	Cameron	72	0.28%	*No change from 2016*
63	Fulton	80	0.32%	
62	Lackawanna	84	0.33%	
61	Perry	89	0.35%	
60	Montour	94	0.37%	*No change from 2016*
59	Schuylkill	98	0.39%	*No change from 2017*
58	Clearfield	116	0.46%	
Total		765	3.05%	