

## SITE IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

### PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY FILES

The following represent Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) site identification criteria and definitions developed by the Section of Archaeology, The State Museum of Pennsylvania and the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

#### PREHISTORIC SITES

1. Three or more culturally modified objects, excluding Fire-cracked rock (FCR), found within a 15 m diameter area while surface collecting a plowed field represent a site.
  - a. Three or more flakes or any combination of flakes and tools (lithic, pottery sherds, etc.) found within 15 m of each other represent a site in plowed contexts.
  - b. Single points are usually considered isolated finds, however, **all** Paleo-Indian point localities should be recorded as sites because of the sparseness of debris from Paleo-Indian sites.
  - c. Isolated **diagnostic** artifacts (points, ceramics, etc.) should be fully recorded on PASS site forms. These will not be assigned official PASS site numbers but will remain on file as important information concerning prehistoric land use.
- 2). Flakes and/or other culturally modified items in adjacent 15 m spaced shovel tests represent a site regardless of the number (minimum of 2) of objects recovered.
- 3). Five or more finished tools recovered within an acre indicate the presence of a site, and the consultant should further refine site boundaries within that area (unless it is a village site covering more than an acre).
- 4). The presence of any subsurface culturally derived feature requires designation of the locality as a site.

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## Historic (Post-contact) Sites

Following federal standards, "Historic" structures and sites are defined as being 50 or more years of age and thus requiring evaluation for significance.

According to guidance from the National Register of Historic Places, "A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the values of any existing structure." (NR Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation 1997:5) The National Register refers to "pre- and post-contact" archaeological sites. Post-contact sites would be those "dating from time periods since significant contact between Native Americans and Europeans." (NR Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties 2000:9) This would include sites containing an above-ground component, as well as sites with no standing structures.

For the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS), record **all** of the following as historic archaeological sites. General PASS forms or industrial site forms are required for each site and, on some types of sites, an Historic Resource Survey Form (HRSF) may also be needed. The artifacts, 50 years old or older, should be curated according to the State Museum guidelines. They must be assigned site and catalog numbers.

### Definitions

1. Any debris scatter\* that contains diagnostic artifacts that are 50 years old or older, is a site. Multiple debris scatters may be indicative of a larger historic resource. Boundaries should be established based on documentary research where possible, in tandem with visible natural or cultural landscape features. Site boundaries should reflect the most stable period of site occupation. For additional guidance, consult *Cultural Resource Management in Pennsylvania: Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations* (2008).
2. Any above ground historic structure and associated historic debris scatter\*. Also, any debris scatter within 100 feet (ca. 30 meters) of a foundation/ruin is a site, provided the latter is clearly not a modern (less than 50 years old) feature.
3. Historic artifacts associated with known yards/lots in urban situations, even if there are no remaining structures and the yards are deemed ineligible for the National Register, must be recorded as historic sites.
4. Any subsurface historic structure or surface ruin of a historic structure represents a site. (Some ruins may require an HRSF form).
5. Record all historic industrial localities as sites. Canals, iron furnaces, mills, logging camps, preserved sections of old roads, etc., should all be recorded as sites.
6. Site status of made land contexts not associated with structural remains will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (BHP).

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\* A debris scatter is defined as 10 or more artifacts representing at least two different artifact types within one acre in a plowed field. Shovel tests would require three diagnostic artifacts of at least two different artifact types in adjacent units at 15-meter (ca. 50-foot) intervals.