

APOLLO BOROUGH HISTORIC SITES SURVEY SUMMARY

Anticipated Historic Resources According to the Armstrong County Preliminary Research Report

Almost 90 percent of the 871 occupied housing units in Apollo were built prior to 1940. A large range of architectural types are expected due to the Borough's long history and the diversity of activities that encouraged its development. The St. Patrick's Day flood in 1936 and fire in 1876 however, destroyed a portion of the earliest built environment.

Early vernacular housing and Greek Revival styles are expected. Remnants of the canal and iron furnace may also be found. The wealth generated by manufacturing enterprises later in the Century should be apparent in Queen Anne, Italianate, and Stick style residences and Italianate style commercial buildings. Structures of the 20th Century will include Colonial Revival and Bungalow style housing as well as company housing related to the steel industry, and commercial buildings.

Existing Historic Resources Determined Through The Apollo Borough Historic Sites Survey

Apollo Borough's colorful historical development has produced a majority of turn-of-the-Century vernacular residences, a variety of popular 19th Century architectural styles, and early 20th Century Bungalow, Cubic and Colonial Revival styles. Although the Borough's earliest built environment was located near the Pennsylvania Canal route along the Kiskiminetas River, a fire in 1876 and the St. Patrick's Day flood in 1936 destroyed most of these structures. No remnants of the prosperous canal period were found. Drake's Log Cabin, located on a hill away from the floodplain, is the only building in the Borough listed on the Pennsylvania Inventory and is considered the oldest structure in the community. A 4 Over 4 folk type residence, located along Terrace Avenue, is one of the other few remaining buildings from the 1840-1859 period. Several buildings located along North Fourth Street represent development from 1860 to 1900 and includes the Upright and Wing, 4 Over 4, and Double House vernacular styles. North Warren Avenue was a thriving commercial area in the 1890s and included the Wallace Lumber Company and remnants of the Superior Rolling Mills. The municipality's central business district is presently located along First Street and several turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings are represented. Located along this street and opposite a modern commercial shopping center, is the Chambers Hotel, a local landmark. This hotel was built in 1889 in response to Apollo's 1880's population boom spurred by the construction of the railroad and expansion of the local steel industry.

As anticipated, the wealth generated by the various manufacturing enterprises was represented in Queen Anne and Colonial Revival Style residences. Although no Stick, Greek Revival, or pure Italianate styles were found, a variety of Eclectic styles incorporating many of these elements were represented.

Apollo's largest, most impressive, and most well-preserved buildings dating from the turn-of-the-Century are located along Terrace Avenue. These residences represent an age of prosperity during the community's railroad and steel mill eras. Buildings located along this roadway include: The Colonel Jackson House, built in 1873 as a combination of Italianate and Colonial Revival stylistic features and originally owned by Colonel S. Jackson, an influential and accomplished Apollo citizen (Site Code No: 005-02-009); the most elaborate example of the Colonial Revival style found in Apollo and built between 1900-1919 (Site Code No: 005-02-010); and an excellent example of the Queen Anne style built between 1880-1899 (Site Code No: 005-02-011). These multiple resources should be included in a locally designated historic district encompassing both sides of Terrace Avenue between North Ninth Street and North Fourth Street. The 4 Over 4 style residence remaining from the 1840-1859 period is also included within this district.

Twenty-nine buildings, including five churches, were surveyed in Apollo Borough. The religious-use structures are some of the largest and most well-preserved buildings in the Borough and several display a high degree of architectural integrity. Representative church styles include Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Victorian Gothic, and Vernacular Gothic.

Two buildings in Apollo's built environment appear to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These historically significant buildings include Drake's Log Cabin (Site Code No: 005-01-018, Exploration/Settlement) and the Chambers Hotel (Site Code No: 005-01-027, Commerce).