

HISTORIC RESOURCES**INTRODUCTION**

Historic resources include buildings, districts or groups of buildings and sites of national, state, or local historical, cultural, engineering, architectural, and archaeological significance. A wealth of these resources is found throughout Perry County and the surrounding area. This chapter provides a brief overview of the historical development of Perry County, and an inventory of the Bureau of Historical and National Register/Listed and Eligible Properties, historical markers, and historic districts of Perry County.

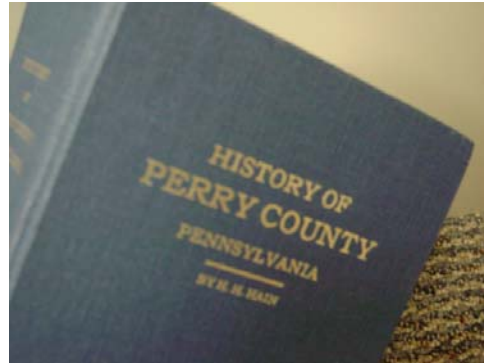
HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The settlement of Perry County began as traders followed the Native American trails into what was then Cumberland County. The Iroquois drove the first settlers from their lands, as these areas had not been purchased from the Iroquois.

Andrew Montour was the first authorized settler in what is now Perry County following the signing of an agreement with the Native Americans on April 18, 1752.

The Penns purchased the land, which is now Perry County in 1754. The settlers came to Perry County in 1755 with the opening of the land office for settlement of lands, on February 3, 1755. In 1755,

George Robinson built a fort to protect against the Native Americans in Sherman Valley along Bixler Run. After 1760, many more pioneers of Scotch Irish descent came over the mountains from the Cumberland Valley followed by settlers of German descent. By 1767, the best farm plots were claimed and by 1778, most of the land in the County was spoken for.



History of Perry County by H. H. Hain Pub.1922

Perry County was part of Cumberland County and was created by an act signed by the governor William Fidler on March 22, 1820. The county was named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry an American naval hero of an engagement with England on Lake Erie in the War of 1812. Perry County became the 51st County in Pennsylvania. This was the time when the fifth President of the United States, James Monroe was serving the third year of his eight-year term. Initially the County was comprised of seven (7) townships: Tyrone, Toboyne, Rye, Greenwood, Juniata, Buffalo and Saville with Landisburg as the first County Seat.

The first Court of Common Pleas ever held in Perry County was convened in Landisburg on December 4, 1820. The County Seat was later moved to lands donated by George Barnett in 1824 at its present location in Bloomfield Borough. The removal of the public documents from Landisburg to Bloomfield took place on March 12 and 13, 1827.

During the first half of the 1800s, the County was traversed by numerous roads including the William Penn Highway (Routes 22/322) and the Susquehanna Trail (Routes 11/15). One of the major vehicles used on these roads were Conestoga Wagons that were ferried across the

Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers at Clark’s Ferry. By 1849, the railroad was built from Harrisburg to Lewistown and became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1857. The railroad replaced the Pennsylvania Canal, which began operation in 1829. Today the railroad still functions along with modern highway systems such as U.S. Routes 11/15 and 22/322, which cross Perry County.

Today Perry County is largely an agricultural County as it was when it was first settled. The principal crops grown by the early settlers were wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, and corn. Today, the farm economy centers on dairy, followed by other livestock and poultry. Field crops still have a significant place in the farm economy. By the middle 1800s, the industries included iron furnaces, tanneries, distilleries, fulling mills, woolen manufacturing, and flourmills. Duncannon had the largest iron foundry and rail factory that operated for more than fifty years to the end of the century.

The formation of the Townships, Towns and Boroughs is shown in **Tables 2-1A, 2-1B and 2-1C.**

**TABLE 2-1A
FORMATION OF TOWNSHIPS**

Township	Year	Formed From	Line of Descent
Tyrone	1754	Original Township	Comprised of all of Perry County lying west of the Juniata River.
Toboyne	1763	Tyrone Township	Originally included Jackson Township and Madison Township
Rye	1766	Tyrone Township	Originally included Penn Township, Wheatfield Township, Miller Township, Oliver Township, Juniata Township, Tuscarora Township, and parts of Centre Township and Carroll Township. Also sites of Newport Borough and Bloomfield Borough.
Greenwood	1767	Fermanagh Township	Fermanagh was an original township of the purchase of 1754 in Cumberland County. Greenwood Township included that part of Perry County east of the Juniata River and south of Cocolamus Creek.
Juniata	1793	Rye Township	Originally contained all of Tuscarora Township and Oliver Township, and parts of Miller Township and Centre Township. Also sites of Newport Borough and Bloomfield Borough.
Buffalo	1799	Greenwood Township	Originally included all of Howe Township and Watts Township, and site of New Buffalo Borough.
Saville	1817	Tyrone Township	Originally included a part of Centre Township and a small strip of Madison Township.
Liverpool	1823	Greenwood Township	Originally in Greenwood Township. Includes Liverpool Borough
Wheatfield	1826	Rye Township	Included all of Penn and parts of Miller Township, Centre Township and Carroll Township. Also site of Duncannon Township.
Centre	1831	Saville Township, Juniata Township, Wheatfield Township, and Tyrone Township	Originally contained parts of Oliver Township, Miller Township, Carroll Township and Spring Township.
Carroll	1834	Tyrone Township, Rye Township and Wheatfield Township	Originally contained part of Spring Township.

Madison	1836	Toboyne Township and a small strip from both Saville Township, and Tyrone Township	Includes Sandy Hill District (Northeast Madison Township)
Oliver	1837	Juniata Township, Centre Township and Buffalo Township	Originally included part of Miller and all of Howe Township. Also site of Newport Borough.
Penn	1840	Wheatfield Township	Once part of Tyrone Township, then Rye Township, then Wheatfield Township
Jackson	1844	Toboyne Township	First part of Tyrone Township. Contains site of Blain Borough.
Spring	1848	Tyrone Township and a strip of Centre Township	Once part of Tyrone Township.
Watts	1849	Buffalo Twp	Once part of Greenwood Township. New Buffalo within its confines.
Miller	1852	Oliver and Wheatfield Townships	Originally part of Rye Township. Once part of Oliver Township and Wheatfield Township.
Tuscarora	1859	Greenwood and Juniata Townships	Originally in Greenwood Township and Juniata Township
Howe	1861	Oliver Township	Originally in Greenwood, then Buffalo, then Oliver.

SOURCE: *History of Perry County, H.H. Hain*

TABLE 2-1B
LAYING OUT OF TOWNS

Town	Year	Then Located In	Adjoining Township
Millerstown	1790	Greenwood Township	Greenwood Township
Petersburg (now Duncannon)	1792	Rye Township	Penn Township
Landisburg	1793	Tyrone Township	Tyrone Township
Reider's Ferry (now Newport)	1804	Juniata Township	Oliver Township
Liverpool	1808	Greenwood Township	Liverpool Township
New Germantown	1816	Toboyne Township	Toboyne Township
Ickesburg	1816	Saville Township	Saville Township
Baughmanstown (now New Buffalo)	1820	Buffalo Township	Watts Township
Bloomfield	1823	Juniata Township	Centre Township
Andesville (now Loysville)	1840	Tyrone Township	Tyrone Township
Blain	1846	Jackson Township	Jackson Township
Haley (Marysville)	1861	Rye Township	Rye Township and Penn Township

SOURCE: *History of Perry County, H.H. Hain*

TABLE 2-1C
INCORPORATION OF BOROUGHES

Name	Year	Location When Formed	Location Now – Other Data
Bloomfield	1831	Juniata Township	Centre Township - County Seat
Landisburg	1831	Tyrone Township	Tyrone Township - Temporary County Seat
Liverpool	1832	Liverpool Township	Liverpool Township
Newport	1840	Oliver Township	Oliver Township
Petersburg (Duncannon)	1844	Penn Township	Penn Township - Name changed to Duncannon Borough and reincorporated in 1865

New Buffalo	1848	Buffalo Township	Watts Township
Haley (Marysville)	1866	Rye Township	Rye Township borders Penn Township - Name changed to Marysville Borough in 1867.
Blain	1877	Jackson Township	Jackson Township

SOURCE: *History of Perry County, H.H. Hain*

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) maintains a listing of the entire National Register, listed and eligible properties. [Table 2-2](#) identifies the National Register/Listed and Eligible Properties in Perry County. The Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation is part of the PHMC and administers the state’s historical preservation programs. The locations of these properties are shown on [Map 2-1](#).

The Bureau manages the National Register of Historic Places. Properties listed in the Register includes districts, sites, buildings, objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The Bureau works with individuals, communities, local government and state and federal agencies to educate Pennsylvanians about our heritage and its values to build better communities through preservation. The PHMC also conducts a landmark identification program, which presents plaques (Historic Markers) to property owners with statewide and national historic significant properties. Descriptions of the Historic Markers are shown in [Table 2-3](#). [Table 2-4](#) identifies the two designated Historic Districts in the county. One is located in the Little Buffalo State Park and the other is located in Newport Borough and Oliver Township ([see Map 2-2](#)).



Newport Borough Historic District

PERRY COUNTY CULTURE

Many community events like fairs and festivals run throughout the year, showcasing much of what Perry County has to offer. The Perry County Fair runs during the Month of July each year providing visitors with a small opportunity to share with our agricultural community. Officials with Little Buffalo State Park coordinate the Christmas Walk. Many of the County’s citizens and municipal officials have also coordinated and planned events to celebrate municipal milestones, for their municipal existence.

The arts and entertainment community also have a strong foundation which will further efforts to strengthen the County’s heritage. The Perry County Council of the Arts is the organizing body for the Arts Festival at Little Buffalo State Park although this is only a portion of the work this non-for profit group undertakes. The Council’s website is <http://www.perrycountyarts.org>

A strong community exists with German ancestry in Perry County, also contributing to its culture. The Plan will not venture further into this subject, because of the limited amount of research at this time. However, the influence this community has on the County should not be

overlooked. Suffice to say, this influence on Perry County is at least documented with this Plan. Future plans now have a basis from which to focus additional attention.

TABLE 2-2
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historical and National Register/Listed and Eligible Properties in Perry County

Municipality	Historic Name	Location	Listed	Eligible
Blain Borough	Blain Bank	Rte 274		4/8/92
Bloomfield Borough	New Bloomfield Historic District	Bloomfield Borough		9/23/92
Bloomfield Borough	Perry County Courthouse	Center Square	2/24/75	
Buffalo Township	Crow-Kvaternick	Routes 11/15 & 34		11/30/89
Buffalo Township	Kramer/Crow Ferry Site	Susquehanna River at Millersburg		1/13/86
Buffalo Township	Montgomery Ferry House	Routes 11/15		2/28/90
Buffalo Township	Montgomery Ferry Inn	Routes 11/15		2/28/90
Buffalo Township	Mount Patrick Inn (demolished)	Routes 11/15		2/28/90
Centre Township	Clay's Covered Bridge	Little Buffalo State Park	8/25/80	
Centre Township	Darlington/Fleisher House	Route 274		9/4/00
Duncannon Borough	Clark's Tavern	Market Street		3/20/80
Jackson Township	Book's Covered Bridge	LR 50054	8/25/80	
Jackson Township	Mt. Pleasant Covered Bridge	T-304	8/25/80	
Jackson Township	New Germantown Covered Bridge	T-302	8/25/90	
Jackson Township	Western Sherman's Creek Valley Historic District	West/Upper Sherman's Creek Valley		10/29/99
Juniata Township	Little Buffalo Historic District	Little Buffalo State Park	4/3/78	
Landisburg Borough	Dunbar-Creigh House	Water Street	8/25/80	
Liverpool Township	Hall-Klinepeter House	Routes 11/15		2/28/90
Liverpool Township	Liverpool Historic District	Liverpool		2/28/90
Liverpool Township	Pennay Farmstead	Routes 11/15		8/30/91
Liverpool Township	Red Covered Bridge	L.R. 50023	8/25/80	
Newport Borough	Bridge in Newport Borough	Route 34	6/22/88	
Newport Borough	Newport Historic District	Newport Borough	3/12/99	
Northeast Madison	Waggoner Covered Bridge	T-579	8/25/80	
Oliver Township	Fleisher Covered Bridge	T-477	6/22/88	
Saville Township	Kochenderfer Covered Bridge	T-332	8/25/80	
Saville Township	Saville Covered Bridge	L.R. 50037	3/12/99	
Southwest Madison Township	Adairs Covered Bridge	L.R. 50009	8/25/80	
Southwest Madison Township	Bistline Covered Brige	L.R. 50008	8/25/80	
Toboyne Township	Hotel	New Germantown		8/2/01
Toboyne Township	Lupfer, Israel & Samuel, Tannery Site & House	Black Hollow Road		3/18/88
Toboyne Township	Martin House	Route 274		6/6/90
Toboyne Township	O'Donel House & Farm	Route 274	7/17/86	
Toboyne Township	Western Sherman's Creek Valley Historic District	West/Upper Sherman's Creek Valley		10/29/99
Tyrone Township	Rice Covered Bridge	T-333	8/25/80	
Tyrone Township	Waggoner Covered Bridge	T-579	8/25/80	
Tyrone Township	Western Sherman's creek Valley Historic District			10/29/99
Watts Township	Pennsylvania Canal, Susquehanna Division	Routes 11/15		8/11/89
Wheatfield Township	Delville Covered Bridge	T-456	8/25/80	

Source: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation

**TABLE 2-3
HISTORICAL MARKERS IN PERRY COUNTY**

Marker Name:	Carson Long Military Institute
Date Dedicated:	May 9, 1987
Location:	North Carlisle Street at the school, New Bloomfield
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Military and Education
Marker Text:	A military school since 1919, it is the oldest in Pennsylvania. Originally Bloomfield Academy, founded in 1837. Owned 1914-21 by Theodore K. Long and renamed as a memorial to his son, William Carson Long. First building, "The Maples," was completed in 1840.

Marker Name:	Centre Church
Date Dedicated:	February 13, 1948
Location:	Junction PA 850 and PA 274, 2.1 miles West of Loysville
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Unavailable
Marker Text:	Early church north of Blue Mountains. Presbyterian settlers had held services at "George Robinson's" before Rev. Charles Beatty preached there, August 19, 1766. Their log church was at site of the present one, beyond Fort Robinson.

Marker Name:	Dr. Elizabeth Reifsnyder
Date Dedicated:	July 7, 1947
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15, Liverpool
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Women, Religious, Professions, and Vocations
Marker Text:	Dr. Elizabeth Reifsnyder, M.D., a pioneer medical missionary to China for more than thirty years, lived in this house both before and after her work abroad. Born 1858, she died here in 1922.

Marker Name:	Fort Robinson
Date Dedicated:	April 28, 1947
Location:	Junction PA 74 and 850, 2.1 miles West of Loysville
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Military, Native American
Marker Text:	Pioneers' stronghold built in 1755 on land of George Robinson; in use for several years as refuge from Indian attacks. The site was about a mile away on the roadside.

Marker Name:	James Beaver
Date Dedicated:	April 19, 1948
Location:	U.S. Routes 22 and 322
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Governments and Politics, Military
Marker Text:	Civil War hero; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1887-1891; a Superior Court Judge, 1895-1905, was born in Millerstown October 21, 1837. A plaque marks site. His adult life was spent at Bellefonte where he died on January 31, 1914.

Marker Name:	John Bannister Gibson
Date Dedicated:	July 25, 1947
Location:	PA 850, 1.2 miles West of Drumgold
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Government and Politics
Marker Text:	Born November 8, 1780, in a house near here. Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, 1827-1851. This was also the birthplace of William Bigler, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1852-55, U.S. Senator, 1856-61.

Marker Name:	Lightning Glider Sleds
Date Dedicated:	July 8, 1992
Location:	722 N. Market Street, Duncannon
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Business and Industry
Marker Text:	Produced between 1904 and 1988 by the Standard Novelty Works, located here. In 1920 the plant was credited with producing more children's sleds than any other U.S. factory; its capacity was then 1,600 to 1,800 per day. The company also made children's wagons, porch swings, porch gates, and furniture products. Established 1904 by William Wills and P.F. Duncan, the plant was closed in October 1990.

Marker Name:	Millersburg Ferry
Date Dedicated:	May 20, 1973
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15 South of Liverpool, near Junction PA 34
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	The only surviving ferry service across the Susquehanna began as early as 1825. Boats were poled by manpower until 1873, when the first paddle wheel was acquired. In the 1920's, gasoline engines replaced steam power, and the paddle wheels were shifted from the side to the stern. The ferry landing is a short distance east.

Marker Name:	Pennsylvania Canal (Juniata Division)
Date Dedicated:	June 12, 2002
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15 (East Side), Southwest of Amity Hall, Duncannon
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	This Division was built in 1828-33. It extended to the eastern end of the Allegheny Portage Railroad at Holidaysburg, a distance of 127 miles. Just west of here, the Canal crossed the Juniata by an aqueduct, which was used until 1901. Abutment and piers remain.

Marker Name:	Pennsylvania Canal (Susquehanna Division)
Date Dedicated:	June 12, 1952
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15 (West Side), Southwest of Amity Hall, Duncannon
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	This State-owned artificial waterway system, built 1826-1834, was designed to connect points like Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie in a vast inland trade. It embraced six chief canal divisions and two railroads. Here the Susquehanna, Juniata, and Eastern Divisions joined in the canal basin.

Marker Name:	Pennsylvania Canal (Susquehanna Division)
Date Dedicated:	June 12, 1952
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15 just North of Amity Hall, Duncannon
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	Built 1828-1831; operated until 1901. It extended from Duncan's Island to Northumberland. In its 41-mile course, the Division embraced 13 locks, 7 aqueducts, old Shamokin Dam, and West Branch Towpath Bridge. Traces of the Canal can be seen at points along this road.

Marker Name:	Pennsylvania Canal (Susquehanna Division)
Date Dedicated:	June 12, 1952
Location:	U.S. 11 and 15 just North of Liverpool
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	Here is Lift Lock No. 5 of this Division. Through it thousands of canal boats, bearing products from various points along the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna, passed annually until 1901, with their destination Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore.

Marker Name:	Perry County
Date Dedicated:	October 21, 2002
Location:	County Courthouse, New Bloomfield Square
Marker Type	City
Category:	Government and Politics
Marker Text:	Formed March 22, 1820 from Cumberland County. Named for Oliver Hazard Perry, War of 1812 hero. Birthplace of two governors of Pennsylvania, one of California, and one of Minnesota. The County Seat (P.O., New Bloomfield) was incorporated in 1831.

Marker Name:	Rockville Bridge
Date Dedicated:	September 21, 1986
Location:	U.S. Routes 11 and 15 at North end of Marysville
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Transportation
Marker Text:	The longest stone masonry arch railroad bridge in the world, one mile to the south, was built 1900-1902. With forty-eight arches, it has length of 3,820 feet. This was the third bridge constructed here by the Pennsylvania Railroad. A wooden structure had been built 1847-1849, followed by an iron bridge in 1877.

Marker Name:	William Bigler
Date Dedicated:	July 3, 1951
Location:	Junction PA 34 and 850, Dromgold
Marker Type	Roadside
Category:	Government and Politics
Marker Text:	Governor of Pennsylvania, 1852-1855; birthplace, about one mile west of here. In office he opposed the chartering of wildcat banks and passage of "omnibus" bills. U.S. Senator, 1856-1861. A brother, John, also born here, was Governor of California, 1852-1856.

SOURCE: *Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation*

**TABLE 2-4
Perry County Historic Districts**

Name	Little Buffalo Historic District
Area	450 acres Southwest of Newport off of State Route 34
Historical Significance	Event, Architecture/Engineering
Area of Significance	Industry, Architecture
Period of Significance	1800-1824, 1825-1849
Buildings and Structures	4 buildings and 2 structures

Name	Newport Historic District
Area	1440 acres roughly bounded by Fickes Lane, Oliver St., Front St., Little Buffalo Creek, Bloomfield Ave., and Sixth St. in Newport Borough and Oliver Township
Historical Significance	Architecture/Engineer, Event
Period of Significance	1800-1824, 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949
Buildings and Structures	418 buildings and 2 structures

SOURCE: *National Register of Historic Places*