

## National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items

New Submission  Amended Submission

### A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

#### African American History in Pennsylvania Theme Study

The Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political Legacy of African Americans in Pennsylvania, 1690-2010

### B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

N/A

### C. Form Prepared by

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### D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.  
(\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**Page 3****Table of Contents for Written Narrative**

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

**Page Numbers****E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

(if more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

**F. Associated Property Types**

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

**G. Geographical Data****H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

**I. Major Bibliographical References**

(List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

To be provided by [Craig Stutman](#).

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**F. Associated Property Types**

Properties considered under “The Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political Legacy of African Americans in Pennsylvania, 1690-2010” are those associated with some aspect of the African American experience in Pennsylvania from the founding of the Commonwealth in 1690 through 1960. They embody the history, culture, and values of the African American community and provide a tangible connection to important events and themes within that community. This section about associated property types (APT) illustrates the broad historic contexts presented and discussed in Section E.

Given the broad nature of the MPDF context study and the overarching goal to document and understand the history of the African American community in Pennsylvania rather than one component of that history (i.e. UGRR or housing), broad (rather than specific) categories of associated property types were identified. It is intended that these broad categories, which are based on the themes identified in Section E, will encompass the broad range of resources associated with the African American community in Pennsylvania and address commonalities and distinctions in age, experience, and geography. Within the broad categories of property type, further distinctions are offered along with specific commentary on their definitions, significance, and registration requirements.

Because of the complex nature of this context, this section also includes a general statement summarizing the state of historic resources associated with African American culture in Pennsylvania and a separate statement regarding integrity to aid in the evaluation of historic resources associated to this historic context for listing on the National Register. A discussion of the methods used to identify and develop the following list of associated property types can be found in Section H: Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods.

Please note that above- and below-ground resources associated with the Underground Railroad context should be evaluated using the contexts that exist specifically for this area of significance.

There are five categories of Associated Property Types that have been identified for the purposes of this MPDF. They are:

1. Resources Associated with the African American quest for civil and political rights, including those relating to the institution of Slavery.
2. Resources Associated with African American labor, commerce, and industry
3. Resources Associated with African American institutions
4. Resources Associated with African American arts, culture, and recreation
5. Resources Associated with African American settlement patterns and housing

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**Page 5****Statement on Historic Resources Associated with African American Culture in Pennsylvania**

At the conclusion of the historic resources survey and subsequent analysis that informed the associated property types section of this MPDF, several key themes emerged that broadly categorize the African American experience in Pennsylvania as represented by the built environment. These themes, while not necessarily profound in their nature or revelations, are nonetheless important when evaluating historic resources associated with African American history in Pennsylvania. They present common threads that have a bearing on and play a role in all of the property types associated with the African American experience in Pennsylvania.

- *Historic resources that embody and represent the African American experience in Pennsylvania are not discernable in the landscape outside of their location.*

Any historic resource that derives its significance from a theme or association rather than its physical construction can be difficult to identify visually within the built environment. Historic schools, churches, or other readily identifiable property types defined largely by their style and form are typically easy to locate and therefore study. It is the significant intangible associations that can be difficult to recognize.

African American communities, regardless of their location, typically cannot be discerned on the landscape simply by a particular community plan, architectural style, or building form. There are two clues that are most telling about the potential existence of an historic African American community. The first clue would be the presence of an African American religious institution building. The second clue would be the quality of building stock in what would be considered to be the least desirable area of a community, such as in a floodplain, along railroad tracks, and at the periphery of a municipality where land was difficult to develop (i.e. on a rocky hillside). In this regard, the African American experience does not appear to differ significantly from that of other ethnicities or immigrants.

- *The physical profile of Pennsylvania's African American communities does not differ in any significant way based on geography, industry, or era of settlement, rather the profile of the community is largely defined by its size.*

An analysis of the property types developed through the survey component of this context study suggests that the physical profile of African American communities throughout Pennsylvania is defined most consistently by size rather than region, principal industry (i.e. lumber, steel), period of settlement, or the cultural heritage of the African American residents. Building materials, forms, and types were analyzed, and the results suggest that there is no identifiable consistency of building materials, architectural style, or building typology through Pennsylvania's African American communities; the most consistent characteristic is the relatively poor condition of the building stock and the degree to which historic buildings had been altered with material replacements and physical alterations. Historically, housing conditions were generally substandard and reflected the socio-economic challenges of the African American community.

Municipalities that had a large concentration of African American residents typically had more complete, independent African American neighborhoods that included several residential streets, more than one church, and a commercial corridor that housed businesses owned and patronized by African American residents, a school, social and fraternal organizations, and other community services. Municipalities that historically had a small African American community typically did not have more than one or two residential streets and one church. In these communities, one building emerged as the central meeting space for education, social services, fraternal organizations, etc. This was either the local church, typically an AME or AME Zion denomination, or a former residence.

- *Few historic resources that date to pre-1865 survive in the landscape outside of those that are located in major metropolitan centers or that are associated with the Underground Railroad and slavery.*

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With few exceptions, surviving pre-1865 historic resources that can be associated with the African American experience in Pennsylvania outside of the major metropolitan areas are rare. In this period, those that do survive relate to the Underground Railroad or the institution of slavery rather than to the aspects of African American life and culture. Resources from this period are more likely to survive in Philadelphia, and, to a lesser degree, in Pittsburgh. In most locales outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, African American communities can only be dated by the age of the oldest congregation rather than by dates of building construction.

- *Intentional communities can be traced to all different eras and locations throughout Pennsylvania.* The working definition of an intentional community for the purposes of this study is a largely self-sufficient community that was established by and/or for African Americans at any point in history. By this definition, some of the communities studied for this MPDF can be traced to early establishments that functioned as intentional communities. These communities were intentionally settled and driven by African American agency rather than de facto segregation.
- *In most communities, the availability of work and a need for inexpensive labor were the greatest impetus' for settlement, rather than available land, open acceptance, or other incentives.* Labor emerges as the central underlying and unifying theme of the African American experience in Pennsylvania outside of the major cities. Beginning somewhat with slavery and continuing primarily through the Second Great Migration, African American settlement was most often driven by labor, both compulsory and optional.

African Americans were first introduced in the Commonwealth in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century as enslaved labor to clear plantations along the Delaware; in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their contributions to the Commonwealth's workforce were still a significant and important part of keeping the economy healthy. The African American experience that is presented in this context and qualified through these broad property types can all be traced to labor, whether it be the involuntary servitude of slavery or the quest for gainful employment in one of the Commonwealth's many industries. Settlement patterns of Pennsylvania's African American residents are tightly woven with labor, commerce, and industry, and are derived directly from seeking and finding opportunities for employment.

- *The African American neighborhood survives as the most consistent historic resource associated with the African American community.* Within each of the survey communities, and theoretically in almost all African American communities across Pennsylvania, one historic resource consistently emerges as central to both this study and an understanding of the African American experience in Pennsylvania: the African American neighborhood. In many shapes, conditions, and sizes, these neighborhoods historically operated as a single body of people, services, and activities that served, protected, and fostered the lives of African Americans in and around their communities. In some instances, this framework survives intact and is thriving, with identifiable ties to its past. In other cases, this framework has been manipulated by forces outside of the African American community and much of the neighborhood's physical structure has been lost but the spirit of the community survives through generational ties and faith-based institutions.

The structure of the community is generally consistent; variants between communities can be attributed more to differences in overall municipality size rather than geography, socio-economic forces, community age, and predominant industry. This community structure focuses on and is largely built around, a faith-based institution. The denomination of the institution is not relevant, although the largest and most consistently common denomination was the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church. From the church,

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related social and service organizations historically took root. The most common of these is the community center, followed closely by a schools, fraternal groups, and social and recreation groups.

While the physical make up and profile of the African American neighborhood is not unlike the enclaves of other immigrant groups that have arrived in the Commonwealth since its founding, the African American neighborhood is very different in some key ways. Like its contemporaries, the African American residents of a municipality often developed a parallel community with the goal to be largely self-sufficient and this community was largely independent of white society. The African American community often included many of those services found in white, or other ethnic, neighborhoods: churches, a commercial block or strip, restaurants, barbers, professionals (doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc.). Not only did this foster the economic well-being of the African American people, but it also served the social health of the community as well by providing a safe and welcoming place to carry out the rituals of their daily lives.

What sets the African American neighborhood apart from its ethnic/immigrant contemporaries is the bureaucratic management of these neighborhoods, particularly in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century as urban planning became viewed as the panacea for social ills. Gradually, the sharp cultural divisions that defined the life experience for immigrants in many communities gave way to a cultural assimilation that absorbed ethnic groups that were defined by their language, customs, or foodstuffs rather than their skin color. Over time, the lines that divided a community into smaller communities based on ethnicity blurred and these ethnic communities were absorbed into a broader cultural context that was defined less by individual cultural heritage and more by a common history. Within the African American community, this type of cultural assimilation largely did not occur.

- In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the built environment of African American communities has been shaped to a large extent by natural and man-made events and to a greater degree than other ethnic or minority areas of the same community; examples of intact (unaltered) historic African American communities are rare.* It is well documented in both this study and in the component MPDF that the historic physical components of African American-related historic resources most often survive in fractured states. Given the historic location of African American neighborhoods in the worst areas of a community, most have been irrevocably changed by natural disasters and through mid-20<sup>th</sup> century urban planning, particularly through public housing initiatives and transportation enhancements. The most consistent clue in the landscape that may suggest the presence of an African American community is the location and condition of the built environment itself. Any person or agency working within what could be considered the least desirable area of a municipality (i.e. in a flood plain, adjacent to railroad tracks, within an industrial corridor, etc.), or in an area marked by substandard housing more than fifty years old or public housing developments must make an effort to trace the area's roots to ascertain any relationship to the African American experience.

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**Page 8****Statement of Integrity**

Given the typical geographic location of the historic resources in question and the socio-economic conditions that have largely shaped the built environment of Pennsylvania's African American community, the traditional measures of integrity must be applied more liberally and on a case by case basis, particularly given the extreme rarity of early examples of resources associated with African American settlement patterns.

The lack of integrity, particularly within traditionally African American neighborhoods is just as illustrative of the African American experience as those that retain their integrity. Changes over time, deferred maintenance, and/or material replacements (particularly siding, porches, and windows) have often removed any exterior detailing. The historic appearance of a property may have to be gleaned from its neighborhood context and historic research. The socio-economic profile of many African American communities has influenced the built environment in the form of material replacements and deferred maintenance. As a result, the integrity of any building may have been altered to such a degree that the property is no longer able to convey its historic significance. For all associated property types, integrity should not be measured by what has been lost but rather by what is retained. Answering the critical questions of 1) is the nature of the changes to the historic resource that affect integrity reversible or irreversible and 2) would those individuals who interacted with the historic resource recognize it today for what it was historically.

***Location***

Integrity of location should survive for properties being considered for listing under this theme. Rare examples of moved properties will likely exist.

***Design***

Integrity of design may or may not survive, depending on the size and nature of the African American community of which it is a part and the degree to which the resource has changed over time. Design is likely to be a facet of a property's integrity that has been altered after the resource's period of significance. The form, space, and structural components of a resource may survive and be identifiable yet the plan and style has been changed through additions or material replacements. Common elements of design that will have been removed include porches, exterior ornamentation, and windows.

***Setting***

Integrity of setting may or may not survive, depending on the profile and history of a particular African American community. For historic districts, setting may or may not survive; in these cases, whether or integrity if setting survives should be measured by the nature of the changes to the setting – i.e. natural disaster or public housing. For individual resources and rural historic districts, integrity of setting should survive.

***Materials***

A loss of integrity of materials will be very common and almost universal in all communities. A loss of material integrity should not disqualify a property for listing on the National Register. This will be most often illustrated through the replacement of original siding materials, roofing materials, and exterior ornamentation.

***Workmanship***

Like the aspect of material integrity, integrity of workmanship will likely have been lost in most African American communities and for individual resources. This loss is most often illustrated in the removal or replacement of stylistic conventions that would have placed the building, or neighborhood, into its architectural context.

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*Feeling*

Integrity of feeling may or may not survive for a particular resource or historic district. Feeling, like setting, may be altered by late 20<sup>th</sup> century changes to the physical character of the African American community.

*Association*

Integrity of association should always survive as the direct link between the historic resource being nominated and the event, person, or theme it represents.

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**Page 10****Associated Property Types****1. Resources Associated with the African American quest for civil and political rights, including those relating to the institution of Slavery****Definition and Significance:**

These resources are buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts, or any combination thereof, that survive on the landscape and whose physical and associative properties reflect significant civil and political rights activities of African Americans from 1690, the date at which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was established, to 1960, the end date of the period of significance for historic resources, as defined by the National Register guideline that resources must be 50 years old or older. (Note: the exception to this last caveat is National Register Criterion Consideration G, which is for properties that have gained significance within the past fifty years). The resources in this category represent a struggle that has evolved over a 350-year continuum and survive as tangible links to the African American quest for civil and political rights.

Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the vast majority of these types of resources fall within the Philadelphia urban area and its immediate environs; resources outside of the Philadelphia area will be exceptionally rare, becoming more so as one moves northward and westward from Philadelphia. Beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and continuing through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, there is more evidence of the quest for civil and political rights in non-metropolitan areas of the Commonwealth, particularly in communities that have an African American population that arrived as part of the Great Migration or later.

The agency through which the quest for equal rights occurs evolves and changes with the different eras of history. For example, abolitionist policies and slave revolts are limited to the pre Civil War era, while the fight against implicit and explicit Jim Crow policies does not occur until after the term is first coined in 1876. The property types under this category are generally both chronologically and thematically driven, although there are some limited exceptions to this statement. These properties will represent a range of chronological periods and will survive both with and without integrity. Within the existing built environment, as suggested by the results of the survey component of this MPDF, the most common types of properties that provide a tangible link to African American civil and political rights activities in Pennsylvania will be individual sites and buildings.

The vast majority of properties evaluated for listing on the National Register under this theme will be nominated under Criterion A, and followed by Criterion B. Very few properties are likely to be considered eligible under Criterion C in this theme because this theme addresses the presence and patterns of events and the impact of personalities in shaped the African American experience in Pennsylvania. There is no recognized particular building typology or architectural style associated with historic resources significant for their political and civic contributions to African American life. However, the locations of such events may be in a building that is a good representative example of a particular building type or architectural style, and this dual significance should not be overlooked because it may speak to the social and/or political standing of a particular group or organization.

Properties associated with the Underground Railroad (by function, location, or association with a particular individual) should be evaluated using the National Park Service's Underground Railroad National Historic Landmark Theme Study (date).

Resources associated with the fight for equal rights in the realm of labor should be evaluated under that associated property type category. For example, the location of a sit-in at a specific manufacturing facility to protest its hiring policies regarding African Americans would be evaluated under this property type.

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**Page 11****Subsets and Related Examples:**

Properties that reflect this association include:

**A. Resources associated with the institution of slavery and the trade of enslaved Africans, including the transport and sale of Africans into Pennsylvania.**

Resources that are better related to the concept of slave labor should be evaluated under the labor theme of this context. Examples of this subset include, but are not limited to, slave trade routes, market houses, selling platforms, etc. Resources under this category will be eligible under Criteria A or D and survive as buildings, structures, archaeological sites, or, in rare cases, as objects.

**B. Resources associated with the call for equal civil and political rights for African Americans. This category includes:**

- locations at which significant abolitionist policy was established and promoted,
- locations at which significant civil rights policy was established and promoted, including the right to vote, equal education, legal representation, etc.
- locations used for mass assembly for the promotion of African American rights, such as a specific place that served as the annual location for an organized convention or mass assembly or a specific place that was the site of a single convention that introduced or furthered theory or policy that affected the African American experience at the local, state, or national level. Many 19<sup>th</sup> century conventions were held outside utilizing open fields on the fringes of a locality, much like religious camp meetings or Chautauqua circuit. With the impermanent and itinerant nature of outdoor conventions, there will likely be no surviving above-ground structures and presence of historic archaeology will likely be limited.
- locations that served as the base from which personalities associated with African American political and civic expression lived, worked, or practiced. These sites will be eligible under Criterion B.
- Native American communities that reflect their benevolent relationship with African American slaves

**C. Resources associated with violence, physical conflict and/or passive resistance and sites of precipitating events that spurred physical or passive reaction. This category includes resources associated with**

- Locations of Slave revolts or uprisings. For example, places of conflict between slave catchers, slaves, and outside parties, such as streetscapes or undeveloped land (i.e. fields or forests) or buildings that housed re-captured slaves or through which conflict ensued
- Locations of precipitating events that initiated physical or non-physical (passive) response or resistance led by the African American community.
- Locations of violent interactions between African Americans and non African American groups not associated with slave insurrections. Resources in this category may include a locale that served as the site of an aggressive act (for example, lynching), or a building in which an action by an African American sparked the subsequent violence.
- Resources associated with racist groups and the promotion of their mission. Property types associated with this type of overt or subversive activity could include annual convention locations or the site of a particular activity that shaped public perception or influenced public policy. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is the most widely recognized of these types of groups. Klan activities are documented in Pennsylvania since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and targets are typically individual families or institutions. Such strikes by KKK members are impermanent markers of hatred that were quickly eradicated by the African American community; as such, locales are difficult to identify and will likely not contain any above or below ground resources associated with the act. The location of such expression will likely in and of itself not render a property eligible for listing in the National Register.

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- Sites of passive resistance in the pursuit of African American civil and political rights. Examples of these types of sites include routes of protest, i.e. marches, and other passive forms of expression such as demonstrations and sit-ins.

**D. Resources critical to the operation, mission, and support of the movement for civil and political rights.**

This category includes resources associated with:

- Locations which served as the headquarters for civil rights organizations (such as the NAACP, Urban League, UNIA, etc.) or which mark the location of significant activities sponsored by these organizations and from which significant theory or policy emerged. Consistently over time, these locations will most likely be religious institutions that served the dual purpose of religious worship and community unification. These organizations typically did not build a specific headquarters building and instead met at local venues such as the church or private homes, and later, at community centers and fraternal lodges if they existed.
- Locations that housed commercial or industrial entities that supported the quest for civil and political rights. Examples of these types of resources may include places like publishing houses that printed pamphlets and advocacy newspapers to disseminate African American propaganda.

**E. Sites associated with explicit or implicit segregationist policies, such as those identified as belonging to the Jim Crow era (recognized as 1875 to 1965), and particularly those sites at which significant watershed events have occurred or were inspired.** There are many different types of properties that were segregated or whose owner or management engaged in exclusionary practices with regard to African American patronage. This activity, because it was a widespread occurrence throughout Pennsylvania, does not inherently qualify a property for listing in the National Register. Theaters, restaurants, social or commercial institutions, etc. regularly practiced Jim Crow segregation and this will be a typical chapter of many property histories regardless of their location, function, or age.

This category includes resources associated with:

- Locations that mark the location of a significant stand against segregationist policies and that impacted or resulted in change at the local, state, or national level
- Resources associated with institutions that were borne out of Jim Crow segregation and that do not have greater significance to the African American experience under the categories of education, religion, arts and culture, or recreation. These resources will have been established as a specific response to Jim Crow segregation and illustrate the effects of Jim Crow policies at the local level. Recreational resources will be the most prevalent type of property type that is associated with Jim Crow segregation.

**Registration Requirements**

In general, resources associated with the African American quest for civil and political rights will be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, and potentially D. Their significance will lie in their associations to broad patterns of history, associations with individuals significant to the quest for civil and political rights, and as resources that have the potential to yield information through archaeology sites because of the original nature of the resource (i.e. field that served as the site for an important mass assembly) or because the above-ground resource is no longer standing and its below ground remains and cultural context may yield additional information that represents association to a particular event or individual.

**Under Criterion A:** Historic resources must be able to communicate a tangible link to an event or pattern important to African American civil and political rights history at the local, state, or national level from 1690 to 1960. Most historic resources associated with this theme will be nominated under this category. Resources outside of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas will be rare until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; as such,

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resources that represent the pursuit of civil and political rights in non-metropolitan Pennsylvania before the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century will be very significant.

Under Criterion B: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a person that significantly impacted the civil or political rights movement at the local, state, or national level. Properties must provide a tangible link to the person (or persons) to which they are associated. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #32.

Under Criterion C: Properties under this associated type will likely not be found to be eligible for listing under Criterion C because there is no specific building typology, architectural style, or corporate character attached to the sites that represent the pursuit of civil and political rights by African Americans.

Under Criterion D: Historic resources that are associated with the African American civil and political rights movement and no longer survive as an above-ground resource may be nominated under Criterion D if sufficient information exists for the archaeological resource to communicate those physical and associative characteristics that would have defined such resources.

## **2. Resources Associated with African American labor, commerce, and industry**

### Definition and Significance:

These resources are buildings, sites, structure, objects, and historic districts that survive on the landscape and whose physical and associative properties reflect a significant relationship with African American labor, commerce, and industry from 1690, the date as which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was established, to 1960, the end date of the period of significance for historic resources, as defined by the National Register guideline that resources must be 50 years old or older. (Note: the exception to this last caveat is National Register Criterion Consideration G, which is for properties that have gained significance within the past fifty years). The resources in this category represent the central role labor has played in African American history in the Commonwealth over the past 350 years.

The broad nature of this category of associated property types is intentional to provide for an evaluation of the many different facets of the African American experience with labor, commerce, and industry. These guidelines address resources that may be associated with blue collar labor in the industrial or manufacturing realms, white collar labor in professional offices or industry, employment in the commercial and retail context, farming and agrarian labor, and African American entrepreneurs, inventors, lawyers, and architects. They also address some of the unique resources that are presented by a study of African American labor history such as the camps established by the Pennsylvania railroad in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to house southern labor recruits and the Commonwealth's Civilian Conservation Corps sites.

As illustrated in Section E and discussed in the opening of Section F, labor is often at the heart of the African American experience in Pennsylvania. While the link between labor and settlement is strong, the breadth and significance of African American settlement throughout Pennsylvania suggests that the two be separated into their own set of associated property types. The exception to this statement is company housing that was provided by and for a specific company. In most cases, these resources should be evaluated through this labor theme rather than through the settlement theme. Resources evaluated under this property type will be individual buildings or, in few cases, historic districts of company housing. Historic districts that reflect the presence and operation of the African American community as a whole of which a particular industry or industries is a part, should be evaluated using the guidelines established under "Resources Associated with African American Settlement Patterns and Housing".

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In many respects, the property types under this category are generally both chronologically and thematically driven, although there are some limited exceptions to this statement. These properties will represent a range of chronological periods and will survive both with and without integrity. Resources associated with this theme will be rare prior to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century outside of the metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. As suggested by the results of the survey component of this MPDF, most historic resources associated with this theme will date to between circa 1875 and 1925 and be located in communities that historically had dominant industries that required unskilled labor and as a result had large African American neighborhoods. Isolated examples of resources associated with agriculture may be located throughout the state, particularly in the northeastern corner and southern tier, and will be very rare. Additionally, it may also be appropriate to consider agricultural resources that are related to labor, such as farmsteads, under PHMC's "Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania" context study.

**Subsets and Related Examples**

Properties that reflect this association include:

*A. Resources associated with African American labor by and/or for a specific industry.* Properties should be evaluated by their industrial and manufacturing contexts.

- Properties associated with industries or companies that are significant for their employment, use, or inclusion of African American labor, including slave labor, in a unique or atypical manner, particularly when evaluated in a chronological and thematic context.
- Properties associated with company housing. This will be housing, or in some cases entire communities, that was built by a specific company or industry for its workers. Buildings will likely be vernacular and exhibiting few, if any, stylistic devices and will have likely been altered with replacement materials because of the poor quality of the original construction.
- Properties associated with the solicitation, transportation, and/or housing of Southern labor recruits after 1865. The most predominant property type in this category will be the railroad camp towns. As free agents or one commissioned by a specific industry, railroads were used to transport large groups of African American laborers into Pennsylvania from the southern states. Once in Pennsylvania, the rail lines established large semi-permanent camps to house recruits in transit throughout the state or unemployed. This is a highly significant resource that is associated with the legal, yet unethical, transportation of African Americans for commerce.
- Properties associated with seasonal/migrant labor. Two examples that would be included in this category are:
  - Migrant labor camps, which are semi-permanent camps of migrant African American labor from the South are known to have been established in Pennsylvania, particularly in the labor-intense agrarian communities in the southeastern corner of the Commonwealth. Given the itinerant nature of these communities, identifiable surviving resources will be rare.
  - Seasonal labor housing, which is boarding houses, often clustered, within a district that housed seasonal workers who traveled into a community for work in the service industry. Typically associated with hospitality industry and housing will likely survive as a collection of vernacular building types that is located within the larger African American community. These buildings will be largely indistinguishable in the landscape and will likely be identified only through historic research and oral history.

*B. Resources associated with African American entrepreneurs and with African American sponsored commerce and industry.* This would include:

- Properties associated with commercial and industrial ventures that were founded by African Americans, such as resources associated with African American entrepreneurs that represent significant scientific or social advances in a particular arena of service or manufacture. The

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properties would also be resources associated with significant African American personalities that “broke the color barrier” within a community and played an important role within the economic profile of the African American and white communities.

- Properties associated with commercial districts, professional offices, service industries, and retail outlets. Depending on the size of the municipality and the size of the African American community within the municipality, this district may be geographically large and economically diverse or small and represent critical services only. Significance will rely more on the historic presence of a recognizable commercial district rather than on surviving individual resources. Professional offices may be significant outside of a district context dependent on the role of the office and its associated personalities in the experience of the African American community.
- Properties associated with the studios of African American architects or builders will be significant for their rarity, particularly outside of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh metropolitan areas.

**C. Resources associated with African American labor unions.** These would include:

- Properties that provided for assembly of African Americans to organize, promote, or protest for and against labor unions
- Properties that are associated with the location of significant protests/strikes involving African American labor issues
- Properties that are associated with personalities that played a pivotal role in the organization and operation of African American labor unions

**D. Resources associated with the employment of African Americans through civil service initiatives.**

Properties that are associated with segregated civil service agencies. The most prominent example of these types of resources are the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps located throughout the Commonwealth.

### Registration Requirements

In general, historic resources associated with African American labor, commerce, and industry will be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and B, and few resources will be eligible under Criteria C and D. Their significance will lie in their associations to broad patterns of history, and their associations with individuals significant in the realms of labor, commerce, and industry. Properties that are significant because they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or because they have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigations will be less common throughout the landscape, particularly in non-metropolitan Pennsylvania.

Under Criterion A: Historic resources must retain integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to an event or pattern important to African American labor, commercial, and industrial labor history at the local, state, or national level from 1690 to 1960. Most historic resources associated with this theme will be nominated under this category.

For properties that are significant for their association with African American labor within a specific company or industry, it will be important for nomination preparers to illustrate why and through what arrangement a particular company industry employed African American labor, the role of the African American laborer in that company or industry, and how that may have differed within the industry as a whole, the geographic area, or time period. A property should not be considered significant simply because it employed African American labor; rather, significance will derive from a relationship between African American labor and industry that is atypical for its time, area, or culture.

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For company housing properties, it will be important for nomination preparers to determine, to the degree possible, the intent of the company or industry in providing the housing. For example, was it specifically for the African American laborers, or was it offered to all workers of a particular ethnicity or socio-economic status? Company housing that was provided for all workers should not be evaluated under this context unless a significant relationship between the industry, its housing program, and African American employees can be identified.

Under Criterion B: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a person that significantly impacted African American labor, commerce, and industry at the local, state, or national level. Properties must provide a tangible link to the person (or persons) to which they are associated. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #32.

Under Criterion C: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able demonstrate its significance at the local, state, or national level as a property that meet the standards established through the Criterion C definition. Properties that cannot demonstrate a significant association to African American labor, commerce, and industry may survive as good representative examples of their architectural style and should be evaluated as such. The rarity of African American architects and to a lesser degree, builders, throughout Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh may lend a greater significance to the properties by African American architects that survive.

Resources associated with company housing that are being evaluated using Criterion C may be eligible if they survive with integrity and as representative examples of their architectural style or method of construction. Company housing should be evaluated as historic districts rather than individual properties. In situations where individual houses survive, it may be more appropriate to evaluate the historic resource under Criterion A.

Under Criterion D: Historic resources that are associated with African American labor, commerce, and industry and no longer survive as an above-ground resource may be nominated under Criterion D if sufficient information exists for the archaeological resource to communicate those physical and associative characteristics that would have defined such resources.

### **3. Resources Associated with African American Institutions**

#### Definition and Significance

These resources are buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts, or any combination thereof, that survive on the landscape and whose physical and associated properties reflect an association with institutions significant in the African American community from 1690, the date at which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was established, to 1960, the end date of the period of significance for historic resources, as defined by the National Register guideline that resources must be 50 years old or older. (Note: the exception to this last caveat is National Register Criterion Consideration G, which is for properties that have gained significance within the past fifty years). The resources in this category represent the religious, cultural, social, benevolent, political, and fraternal institutions that have existed and played an important role in the African American community between 1690 and 1960.

For the purposes of evaluating properties under this category, "institution" is defined as a formal (chartered) or informal (not chartered) organization, group, society, or community devoted to the promotion, protection, enrichment, and support of the African American community in Pennsylvania through its mission. The institution may have a local, regional, or statewide area of service. The institutions may subscribe to one particular mission, i.e. education, fraternity, culture, or benevolence, or have a more wide-ranging

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programmatic goal to serve all needs, i.e. religious, educational, fraternal, and cultural, of the African American community. An example of the former would be a literary society or fraternal group like the Masons; an example of the latter would be a community center for local youths or a school.

Historic resources evaluated under this associated property type will be significant at the local, state, or national level for their association with African American institutions as the location at which an organization or, more likely, several organizations met, conducted business, and carried out their mission. The institution should have a substantial physical connection to the resource rather than a fleeting or tangential one; this connection can be measured through a length of time and/or the unique mission or accomplishments of the associated institution at a specific point in time.

As with the other categories presented in this section, the vast majority of sites associated with African American institutions fall with the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh urban areas until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Within the non-metropolitan communities around the Commonwealth, a church congregation is traditionally the first documented institution in any community. From this organization, other religious and secular institutions may have developed depending on the size and nature of the community. In nascent or small communities (typically as defined by population; for example, Bedford), any institution within the African American community typically fell under the patronage of the local African American religious congregation. In established or larger communities (for example, Wilkes-Barre), the institutions may be wholly independent of any particular religious congregation.

There can be one, or many, types of institutions within a particular African American community depending on its size, age, and socio-economic profile. Larger communities will likely have a more diverse socio-economic cross section of residents, and therefore may have a collection of typical late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century institutions like a school, two or more religious congregations, cultural groups that promote literature and the arts, at least one fraternal or sororal group, and a benevolent/ charitable organization. In smaller communities that do not have the population to support numerous organizations, there may only be a handful of institutions such as one religious congregation and one fraternal or sororal group.

The property types under this category are generally thematically driven. These properties will represent a range of chronological periods and will survive both with and without integrity. Within the existing built environment, as suggested by the results of the survey component of this MPDF, the most common types of properties that provide a tangible link to African American institutions in Pennsylvania will be individual sites and buildings. Outside of some religious facilities, resources associated with this property type that survive with integrity will be rare. When evaluating institutions under this theme, it will be important for nomination preparers to distinguish if institution is the religious congregation or if institution simply uses church as meeting location. Because of the historic role of the church in the African American community, a role that often eclipsed all other institutions and historically served as the literal and figurative center of the community, must consider checking "religion" under Area of Significance.

The vast majority of properties evaluated for listing on the National Register under this theme will be nominated under Criterion A and Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties; very few will likely be considered eligible under Criteria C and even fewer under Criteria B and D. There is no recognized particular building typology or architectural style associated with historic resources significant for their association with African American institutions except for those cases as noted in the subsets below. Where a particular historic resource survives that has an association with a secular institutions, that resource may survive as a good representative example of a particular building type or architectural style, and this dual significance should not be overlooked because it may speak to the social and/or political standing of a particular institution and its members.

Commercial institutions like stores, banks, etc. should be evaluated under the property type of "Sites associated with African American labor, commerce, and industry". Institutions that are political in nature and

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whose significance better relate to the fight for civil and political rights should be evaluated under the property type, "Sites associated with the quest for civil and political rights, including those relating to the institution of Slavery." Additionally, schools as education institutions should also be evaluated and considered under PHMC's "Historic Educational Resources of Pennsylvania" context study.

**Subsets and Related Examples**

Properties that reflect this association include:

*A. Resources associated with Religious Institutions.* Resources must be able to illustrate through history, context, and integrity the broad impact of the religious institution on the history and development of the African American community. The historic resource will not be eligible because it served as the place of religious services for a community or is the oldest structure by a congregation in a geographic area.

Resources under this category will be eligible under Criteria Consideration A with an Area of Significance of "Religion" or "Social History" or "Architecture". Most commonly, these resources will be churches constructed by African Methodist Episcopal (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) and Baptist congregations or constructed by another denomination but historically used by the African American congregations. Less common examples will be African American Catholic, Presbyterian, and Jewish congregations, particularly outside of the metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. When considering the role of the faith-based institution and its impacts on the African American community, a discussion of denomination will be important because it may relate important information about the socio-economical and geographical history of the local African American community. For example, a community that has or had a Baptist congregation may have a significant population that emigrated from the South during the Great Migration.

These types of resources would include:

- Resources that can be identified as churches, synagogues, community centers, outdoor locations that served as the site for revival meetings, commercial properties or private homes that served as the meeting site from which institutions met and served the community. It will be important to distinguish the date of the founding of the congregation and its history as well as that of the resource.
- Resources that served as a meeting space for the social, cultural, educational, benevolent, and community outreach activities sponsored by a religious institution and that had a broad impact on the development and sustenance of the African American community.
- Religious facilities that also served in various community capacities and provided a community meeting space for social, cultural, educational, and benevolent activities that impacted the development and sustenance of the African American community and serve the greater good but may not specifically be related to that congregation.

*B. Resources associated with Education and Educational Institutions.* This includes resources associated with the education by and for African Americans, including public and private elementary schools, high schools, and institutions of higher learning like colleges and universities. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Properties specifically recognized, officially or unofficially, as schools for African American students
- Properties that served dual functions, one of which was an educational capacity, such as the upper floor of a commercial building, a private home, or religious facility.

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School buildings that served the entire community, or a broader segment of the community, rather than only the African American component and segregated African American students within the same facility are not in and of themselves significant under this particular context because this phenomenon was not unique to a particular community or chronological period. These school buildings may be more appropriately evaluated under PHMC's "Historic Educational Resources of Pennsylvania" context study.

Resources under this category will likely be eligible under Criterion A for Education, with few eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. Resources that are educational in nature and were the site of significant political events or civil rights struggles should also be evaluated under associated property type "Resources Associated with the African American quest for civil and political rights because they may derive their primary significance from such events rather than from their role as educational institutions. An example of this would be a school building at which a stand against segregation occurred that impacted local or state policy or was part of a broader civil rights movement.

*C. Resources associated with Fraternal, Sororal, Political and Benevolent Institutions.* Historically, the presence of these organizations in an African American community was dependent on the size and socio-economic profile of the community. Rarely, in any community, did the organization have its own meeting space and property. It was more likely that the organization met in a private home, at the local church, or on the upper floors of a commercial property. It is even rarer outside of the metropolitan Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas to find a property associated with a particular society to have or retain its character-defining features such as private lodge rooms or sanctuaries. Resources evaluated under this category will likely be eligible under Criterion A for Social History and possibly under Criterion C for Architecture

These types of resources would include:

- Resources associated with the meeting sites for the fraternal, benevolent, and sororal organizations and societies within the African American community, including but not limited to, the following organizations:
  - Masons
  - Brotherhood Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.)
  - International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.)
  - Veteran's of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.)
  - Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)
- Resources associated with the community activities sponsored by these organizations that played a significant role in the life of the African American community

*D. Resources associated with health and welfare institutions.* Resources evaluated under this category will likely be eligible under Criterion A for Health/Medicine for hospitals or medical offices or for Social History for community centers that sought to further and protect the welfare of the African American community. Few may be eligible under Criterion B for their association with a significant person that promoted health and welfare within the African American community through a particular institution

These types of resources would include:

- Resources associated with institutions that provided health and welfare services to the African American community, including but not limited to,
  - Health-care facilities by and for the African American community
  - Community Centers. Community centers are included in this property type rather than in "Sites Associated with African American Arts, Culture, and Recreation" because of the nature of their mission to promote public welfare rather than the activities they sponsor to fulfill this mission.

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Medical and dental offices are not included in this property type and are more appropriately addressed under property type "Resources Associated with African American Labor, Commerce and Industry".

E. *Resources associated with Cemeteries, Burial Grounds, and Sites of Burial.* Cemeteries, burial grounds, and sites of burial are included in this property type category because, in and of themselves, they exist as a type of local African American institution that serves and benefits the welfare of the African American community. Cemeteries will be the most prominent type of burial site within this category. It may be segregated, integrated, or wholly African American in nature, and are often established or maintained by one of the institutions presented in this section, most commonly a religious congregation, or by a fraternal or benevolent group.

Examples of cemetery types most commonly found in and for African American communities can be classified as the following (adapted from National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places):

- town cemeteries and burial grounds whose creation and continuity reflect the broad spectrum of the community's history and culture;
- beautifully designed garden cemeteries

In the majority of cases, cemeteries will fall into the first category above as town cemeteries and burial grounds; few examples of garden cemeteries, formal cemeteries, or cemeteries associated with African American churches were historically or are currently located within Pennsylvania.

### Registration Requirements

In general, resources associated with African American institutions will be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and Criteria Consideration A. Their significance will most often lie in their associations to broad patterns of history. Few resources will be eligible under Criteria B, C, and D.

Under Criterion A: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to an event or pattern important to African American institutions at the local, state, or national level from 1690 to 1960. The majority of historic resources associated with secular institutions will be nominated under this category. Resources outside of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas will be rare until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; as such, resources that represent the African American institutions in non-metropolitan Pennsylvania before the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century will be very significant. Institutions that are associated with religious congregations and their facilities should be evaluated under Criteria Consideration A.

Under Criterion B: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a person that played a significant role in the operation of a particular institution at the local, state, or national level. Properties must provide a tangible link to the person (or persons) to which they are associated. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #32.

Under Criterion C: Properties under this associated type will likely not be found to be eligible for listing under Criterion C because there is no specific building typology, architectural style, or corporate character attached to the sites which represent African American institutions. A property associated with an institution(s) being considered under Criterion C for significance for its architectural design or construction should be evaluated as are other properties under Criterion C; that is, it should be evaluated within an established architectural context and, if necessary, compared to other properties of its type, period, or method of construction. (See National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, Part V "Comparing Related Properties")

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Under Criterion D: Historic resources that are associated with the African American institutions and no longer survive as an above-ground resource may be nominated under Criterion D if sufficient information exists for the archaeological resource to communicate those physical and associative characteristics that would have defined such resources. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #36.

Under Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties: The historic resource must derive its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance for the historic or cultural forces the property represents rather than for the religious doctrine or an association with a particular faith. Typically, a religious property can be eligible if:

- a) It is directly associated with either a specific event or a broad pattern in the history of religion, or
- b) It is significant under a theme in the history of religion having secular scholarly recognition; or
- c) It is significant under another historical theme, such as exploration, settlement, social philanthropy, or education; or
- d) It is significant for its associations that illustrate the importance of a particular religious group in the social, cultural, economic, or political history of the area. Eligibility depends on the importance of the event or broad pattern and the role of the specific property.

In many cases, African American institutions are fostered by a religious congregation and/or use a religious facility as a community meeting location. In such instances, Criteria Consideration A applies because the resource was constructed by a religious institution, may be currently owned by a religious institution, and used for religious purposes, the resource was owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes during its Period of Significance, and/or "religion" is selected as the Area of Significance. As with all eligible properties, religious properties must physically represent the period for which they are significant. For instance, a recent building that houses an older congregation cannot qualify based on the historic activities of the group because the current building does not convey the earlier history. Likewise, an older building that housed the historic activities of the congregation is eligible if it still physically represents the period of the congregation's significance. However, if an older building has been remodeled to the extent that its appearance dates from the time of the remodeling, it can only be eligible if the period of significance corresponds with the period of the alterations.

Within Criteria Consideration A, a property should also be considered for its eligibility for historic events, associations with historic persons, architectural or artistic distinction, and information potential. Nomination preparers should refer to National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation for further guidance.

#### **4. Resources Associated with African American Arts and Recreation**

##### Definition and Significance

These properties are buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts, or any combination thereof, which survive on the landscape and are associated with aspects of arts, culture, and recreation in African American life from 1690 to 1960. Within the existing built environment, the most common resource type that may be associated with African American arts, culture, and recreation will be buildings, sites, or objects. Historic resources evaluated and registered under this category would need to reflect the role and significance of the arts, culture, or recreation within the African American community at the local, state, or national level. For the purposes of this document, "arts" is generally defined as including visual arts (fine and decorative art), performing arts (music, theater, dance, etc.), and literature. Likewise, "recreation" is generally defined as including activities related to sports (professional and amateur), hobbies, and amusements.

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Within the area of the arts, historic resources eligible for listing will be buildings, sites, structures, or objects associated with important events or trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history or that are associated with persons significant to the arts and culture movement. These may be as the locale of an important artistic or cultural event, or a building or object (i.e. artwork or sculpture) that is associated with a significant personality. Rarely will a historic resource in this theme qualify for listing under Criteria C or D. Resources that fit into this property type category will be more common in metropolitan areas and less common in small, rural communities.

Within the arena of recreation, there are several different types of properties that may be eligible for listing on the National Register. These include public or private outdoor park sites, amusement parks, public swimming pools, and sports venues. When evaluating a property that falls into this category, it will be important for the nomination preparers to present and understand the role of Jim Crow politics in the formation, success, or failure of the resource within the African American community. Because many of these resources can also be significant as the place associated with a civil or political rights event, it will be important to distinguish if the site is significant over a period of time for its role in the African American community or its significance is tied to a single event. In the latter case, it may be more appropriate to evaluate and register the property under the property types associated with the call for equal civil and political rights.

**Subsets and Related Examples**

Properties that reflect this association include:

- A. *Resources associated with the arts.* This includes properties associated with specific disciplines within the arts such as:
- Resources associated with the visual arts, particularly a specific place associated with a significant personality working in the visual arts, such as a studio, home, or gallery. This may also include outdoor artwork as an object and public art.
  - Resources associated with the performing arts, particularly a specific place at which the performing art is presented to a public or private audience, such as a theater, concert hall, amphitheater, etc. or a specific place associated with a significant personality working in the performing arts, such as a home, studio, or venue.
  - Resources associated with literature, particularly a specific place associated with a significant personality working in the field of literature, such as a home or office or a specific place that, because of either broad patterns of history or a specific event, inspired a particular piece of literature.

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- B. *Resources associated with recreation.* This includes the following types of properties such as:
- Resources established by and for the local or regional African American community for the purposes of enjoyment and amusement. These sites will be private and sponsored by one or more African American institutions of a political, religious, social, or benevolent nature. Many will have been established as a direct result of segregationist policies at their public or private counterparts. It will be important for nomination preparers to make this distinction in the registration documents.
  - Resources associated with indoor and outdoor venues that were established for the promotion of and participation in African American sports. These sites will likely be private and sponsored by one or more African American institutions of a political, religious, social, or benevolent nature. These sites will include ballparks, arenas, etc.
- C. *Resources associated with tourism.* This includes:
- Resources associated with tourist destinations, such as hotels, resorts, etc. by and for the African American community.
  - Resources associated with summer camps run by African American institutions or private entities for African American children. These camps may be limited to children from Pennsylvania or may draw from a large regional area and was located in Pennsylvania.

**Registration Requirements**

In general, resources associated with African American arts and recreation will be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and B. Their significance will most often lie in their associations to broad patterns of history and with significant personalities in the category of the arts. Few resources will be eligible under Criteria C and D.

**Under Criterion A:** Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to an event or pattern important in African American arts or recreation at the local, state, or national level from 1690 to 1960. Resources outside of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas will be rare until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; as such, resources that represent the significance of African American arts and recreation in non-metropolitan Pennsylvania before the early 20<sup>th</sup> century will be very significant.

**Under Criterion B:** Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a person that played a significant role in the areas of African American arts or recreation at the local, state, or national level. Properties must provide a tangible link to the person (or persons) to which they are associated. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #32.

**Under Criterion C:** Properties under this associated type will likely not be found to be eligible for listing under Criterion C because there is no specific building typology, architectural style, or corporate character attached to the sites which represent African American arts or recreation.

**Under Criterion D:** Historic resources that are associated with the African American institutions and no longer survive as an above-ground resource may be nominated under Criterion D if sufficient information exists for the archaeological resource to communicate those physical and associative characteristics that would have defined such resources.

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**Page 24****5. Resources Associated with African American Settlement**Definition and Significance

These properties are building, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts, or any combination thereof, that survive on the landscape and reflect the settlement patterns of African Americans in Pennsylvania from 1690 to 1960. Historic resources that would be registered under this category would need to reflect the presence of a cohesive community solely composed of African Americans that was established as an independent entity as defined by function and/or location in either a rural or urban context. The most common associated property type is likely to be the historic district as representative of the African American neighborhood.

African American settlements, or communities, can include all of the other property types presented in this context or be limited to residential properties. For instance, the settlement may be large enough that it developed a distinct commercial corridor or supported one or more African American institutions or it may be small and limited to a collection of residential buildings and one institution, most likely a church. When evaluating an African American community for listing on the National Register, it will be important for nomination preparers to determine if the community retains integrity and significance as an historic district that may or may not include several different property types. If an historic district is not supported, due to lack of significance at the local, state, or national level or because it has lost sufficient integrity that it can no longer communicate its significance, then it may be more appropriate to evaluate the surviving historic resources for individual listing using the other associated property types.

The genesis of African American settlements can be tied, almost universally, to labor. As freed slaves looking to find paid employment to Southerners looking to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Northern industries in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Pennsylvania's African American residents arrived and settled in the Commonwealth because of the availability of work. The symbiotic relationship between labor and settlement suggests that property types associated with these themes should fall under the same category. However, while the two share an undeniable link, the sheer breadth of information and property types for each theme makes combining them cumbersome. In any discussion of settlement, an understanding of the forces that drove settlement and the relationship to labor will be critical. However, the two are not mutually exclusive; resources associated with labor do not necessarily have to be measured against their impact on settlement, and vice versa.

Regardless of their location in the Commonwealth, African American communities share one common thread through architecture. The architecture styles of buildings found in African American communities tend to be vernacular adaptations of the nationally popular styles found throughout the region from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Architecturally, these neighborhoods will be largely indistinguishable from their contemporaries. Their style, if any, will be largely inferred from surviving exterior ornamentation (particularly at the porch and cornice levels), building form, and neighborhood context. Residential properties will typically include single-family houses, boarding houses, and single-family houses serving as boarding houses. With few exceptions, residential properties are two-story vernacular frame buildings that exist as free-standing or attached single-family homes or rowhouses. Masonry buildings are found with less frequency and tend to be limited to larger communities near metropolitan centers.

Subsets and Related Examples

Properties that reflect this experience include:

*A: Resources associated with pre-Reconstruction Era free and fugitive slave housing, including intentional communities, before 1860.* These properties reflect the settlement patterns of African Americans before 1865 as individual resources or historic district outside of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas. The most common type can be identified as the intentional community.

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An intentional community is one that was created specifically by or for African Americans and was largely independent of pre-existing municipalities. They were typically transitory or semi-permanent colonies of free or fugitive slaves, and were most often located along an UGRR route. Given the impermanent and itinerant nature of these communities and the bias and ambivalence toward documenting African Americans in the early historical record, they are exceptionally difficult to identify and locate; often the only available source of information is oral tradition and secondary 20<sup>th</sup> century history from within the African American community. Surviving examples of these properties, urban or rural, are exceptionally rare, particularly prior to the 1830s and 1840s.

Rural examples of these communities often failed after a short period or, if located near a larger urban area or a source of labor, evolved into viable communities. These latter neighborhoods will be rare, as most evolved into later communities that whose period of significance would include later, post-1900 changes. Independent residential buildings may survive as evidence of an earlier intentional community. These buildings may be patterned on early building typology and not necessarily highly visible within the contemporary surrounding landscape. Examples of these types of communities would include the area formerly known as Hinsonville, Chester County and the area formerly known as Silver Lake, Susquehanna County. Both of these resources may only survive as archaeological sites.

Intentional community historic districts or their surviving components are rare and may be identified by the existing or historic presence of the following:

- An early (pre-1860) African American congregation (of any denomination, although A.M.E. and A.M.E. Zion will be most prevalent and typical). For nomination preparers, it will be critical to distinguish between congregation and church when attempting to identify the presence of a pre-Reconstruction Era community. Many of the extant church buildings date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and represent the second or third home of a much older congregation
- Community will be located within what would generally be considered an undesirable location within the surrounding external community, such as adjacent to a river or on land not suited to farming
- Include vernacular, usually frame, single homes clustered within a few blocks of the church and that lack individual architectural distinction
- There will not be an established commercial district unless such a district can be conclusively dated to before 1860 and retains architectural styles and forms that reflect popular design idioms (local, regional, or national) of this period.

*B. Resources associated with communities within rural or suburban municipalities between 1860 and 1960.* These neighborhoods are defined as cohesive districts in which the majority of the African Americans community resided. These neighborhoods may be a continuation (and likely enlargement) of an earlier, pre-Reconstruction Era community, or established by newly freed slaves during the first wave of migration from the South after 1865. Often, the community will be limited to a church, a collection of vernacular housing stock, and with no distinct or recognizable commercial corridor. They may have other institutions, but they will likely be associated with and make use of the religious facility. The community's physical size and population will be small, and can be limited to a small area within the community or integrated in small numbers throughout a municipality.

Architecturally, these neighborhoods will be largely indistinguishable from their contemporaries. Historic research in addition to some clues in the landscape, will be required to establish both the presence, location, and size of the African American community. Visual cues will include:

- Location, typically within what would be considered an undesirable area such as adjacent to a river, adjacent to railroad tracks, at the edge of a larger community; or within an industrial corridor

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- Clusters of residential properties that date to pre-1940, typically fragmented by new commercial or industrial construction, transportation thoroughfares, or post-1940 public housing
- The presence of an AME or AME Zion church (active or otherwise), but without an associated residential community. The immediately surrounding area will lack historic residential properties and social institutions that would reflect the presence of an earlier cohesive community

These communities will not be uncommon throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in the areas of the state (particularly the northern tier) that historically did not have concentrations of heavy industry or large African American populations. These communities are typically linked to labor in small craft industries, the domestic service industry, and agrarian-based employment. These communities did not grow significantly in size or population during the periods of the Great Migration or the Second Great Migration because they lacked industrial or manufacturing interests that required large numbers of unskilled laborers.

Significant examples will remain identifiable through historic research and in the built environment as distinct neighborhoods that have not experienced a loss of integrity through natural disaster or municipal intervention. These neighborhoods may survive with and without integrity. They are less likely to have been fragmented by community planning programs than their urban counterparts but may have experienced a substantial loss of historic fabric through natural disaster by virtue of their location.

*C. Resources associated with communities within urban municipalities between 1860 and 1940.* These settlements will be larger communities of African American residents that are substantial in size and population and include more than one commercial and institutional organization that support the African American community. These communities may include several streets and blocks of residential properties, a neighborhood school building, two or more religious congregations, and possibly a commercial district or set of commercial properties. It will survive as a distinct neighborhood within a larger municipality and will not be integrated into the surrounding neighborhoods.

These settlements will be either older communities that historically contained large concentrations of African American residents in the period immediately after the Civil War or communities that grew in response to the Great Migration in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They will offer many opportunities for employment, most likely unskilled labor at nearby industrial or manufacturing facilities. As a larger community, there will likely be socio-economic distinctions within the community represented by education and occupations. There will also be a cross section of professions represented in the population, with unskilled laborers, business owners, professionals, and tradesmen.

African American communities that fit this profile will typically be located, or had been located, in all of the Commonwealth's first- and second-class cities. An urban neighborhood will typically be associated with at least one company or industry that supports large forces of unskilled labor, with a significant portion of that population arriving from the South. While the presence of an African American neighborhood in and of itself may not be uncommon, communities that have not be altered by natural disaster or urban redevelopment initiatives will be. These neighborhoods may have been substantially altered through community planning programs in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century or through natural disaster(s).

These neighborhoods will include a significant percentage of housing, a distinct commercial corridor, diverse socio-economic profile within the African American community, support many types of social and cultural institutions, a separate school for African American children, and include more than one church or denomination. Residential component of district will feature a combination of vernacular building types (i.e. single family homes, boarding houses, etc), constructions (i.e. frame, brick, concrete block), and styles (i.e. Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic Revival). They will exhibit a variety of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century stylistic nuances but will lack formal style and variety of materials. Communities that historically had and

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retain a commercial corridor, even if the functions of the original commercial buildings have been changed, will be rare.

*D. Resources associated with communities established by Southern immigrants associated with the Great Migration, 1890 to 1930.* These pockets of settlement will typically be located outside of earlier, established neighborhoods and function as small intentional communities established by large families or groups of loosely related peoples migrating from a specific area of the South. They will appear as semi-permanent settlements of a temporary nature and likely include a collection of similar or identical frame residential buildings, often with at least one agriculture-related structure. If such a settlement is suspected, any ties to a regional Southern building typology that reflects the heritage of the migrants should be investigated.

Surviving examples of these types of settlements will be rare, and may exist only as historic archaeological sites. Their presence may or may not be recorded in period maps and aerial images, and oral history is likely the best source for identifying such a community. Any such sites, above or below ground, will be rare and have exceptional significance in telling this part of the African American story in Pennsylvania.

*E. Resources associated with communities within urban municipalities between 1940 and 1960.* The presence and location of public housing within the survey communities represents the predominant themes of community planning and development in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century as municipalities, largely following the model put forth by the Federal government, looked to subsidized public housing as a panacea for the socio-economic problems plaguing their community. Correctly or incorrectly, these problems were identified as ones belonging to and stemming from the African American community. By virtue of their location in highly undesirable areas, African American communities were routinely and systematically impacted by a lack of consideration during the course of transportation and civic improvements during this era. Traditional, cohesive neighborhoods were fragmented through widespread demolition of all types of properties (residential, commercial, educational, etc.) and the construction of transportation corridors (widening existing streets, expressways, etc.) or public housing complexes.

While the historic African American neighborhood may have been fragmented by the construction of a public housing complex, the role of this urban redevelopment program in the history of the community may be significant. While the earlier community (that which existed before demolition and reconstruction) likely has lost its integrity from the new construction, it is important to understand and communicate that the introduction of the public housing “projects” into the African American community has played a profound and significant role in the story of that neighborhood. The co-existence of an African American neighborhood with public housing developments should not automatically disqualify that community for consideration for listing on the National Register. If sufficient context survives that illustrates this important component of the African American story, then an historic district may be identified that includes the pre-public housing neighborhoods and the housing developments themselves. If sufficient context does not survive for both parts of this equation to qualify as an historic district, then it may be possible to evaluate each individual part (pre-public housing community vs. public housing complexes) for listing on the National Register.

Characteristics of these communities may include the following:

- May be more commonly referred to as “public housing” or colloquially as “The Projects”
- This housing is defined as dense, multi-family rental units located within a single lot or tax parcel sponsored by either a local or county planning agency or the federal government
- These complexes will be readily identifiable on the landscape because of their architecture and planning
- The architecture of the housing campus is clearly institutional and illustrates the influences of the Modern and International Style.

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- The plan of the housing campus typically includes six to eight residential unit blocks (although number can vary and not always by the same factor), an administrative center, and a parking area. Orientation and positioning of the blocks within the land parcel can vary, but typically follows a discernable pattern (i.e. parallel, circular, etc.)

**Registration Requirements**

Historic districts, in general, will most likely be of local and state significance under Criterion A rather than Criterion C. The architecture of these communities, regardless of their age, is largely indistinguishable from predominantly white neighborhoods of the same period. Districts that were established before 1860 will be exceptionally rare; scattered individual properties may survive within an urban setting and rural districts likely survive only as historic archaeological sites. Districts that were established after 1860 will likely retain a more cohesive sense of development and should be measured against a higher standard of integrity.

Natural disasters and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century planning programs changed the structure and functionality of many African American communities. In African American communities that have been greatly altered by natural disasters or human intervention, there may not enough extant historic building fabric to communicate integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. By virtue of their location in highly undesirable areas, African American communities were routinely and systematically impacted by floods, as Pennsylvania witnessed several catastrophic floods since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, communities were either eliminated or subjected to extensive demolition and new construction. If residential properties were rebuilt, the new construction reflected the characteristic forms and styles of their time. More typically, African American families dispersed into the surrounding community and the previous neighborhood was disbanded. These historic resources will need to retain sufficient integrity through their physical and associative attributes to convey their function as a significant historic African American community.

In urban African American communities, community planning initiatives often altered the built environment by constructing large institutional housing blocks in areas that were historically identified as the African American neighborhoods. These planning programs, presented as a way to eliminate blight, were principally targeted at African American communities. Blocks of homes and businesses were demolished for the new construction. The resulting community was fractured, both physically and psychologically, and left with few tangible resources that reflected their history and accomplishments as a community. Neighborhoods that have been altered in this way will need to retain sufficient integrity through their physical and associated attributes to convey their function as a significant historic African American community. In such communities, the pre-1940s era community may be eligible as a National Register historic district if it survives enough demonstrable evidence of its function as an urban historic district despite the fact that its boundaries will encompass that area which survives rather than the area with which it is historically associated.

In all cases, properties associated with African American settlement should retain, at a minimum, integrity of location, design, and workmanship. It is unlikely that a substantial percentage of properties will retain integrity of materials beyond foundations and framing. In urban properties that date to before the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is unlikely that integrity of setting will survive. This should not inherently disqualify this type of resource for listing. Integrity of feeling and association may survive if enough of the community or an individual property's context survives. This will largely depend on the nature and cause of the changes to the community as a whole. For rural properties, integrity of setting should survive.

Additionally, individual buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects (regardless of function) owned by free African Americans as an embodiment of "the common man" would typically not be considered for individual listing. Establishment or ownership of an historic resource by an African American does not inherently make it significant for National Register listing. Exceptions to this qualifier might be rural agricultural properties that

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were settled, constructed by, and continuously occupied by a particular African American family, under which scenario, it will be appropriate to evaluate the historic resource under Criterion B.

Under Criterion A: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to an event or pattern important to African American settlement at the local, state, or national level. This may include neighborhoods as historic districts that reflect the self-sufficient nature of an African American community, or individual buildings that survive as the only evidence of an earlier intentional community and where an historic district does not exist. Historic districts being nominated under this theme should show how the community evolved, its roots and cultural, and how substantial changes over time have not diminished the district's integrity. Most historic resources associated with this theme will be nominated under this category.

Under Criterion B: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a person that significantly impacted the creation or continuation of an African American community. This may include land owners that fostered early African American settlement during the pre-Reconstruction Era or African American activists or politicians who shaped or protected the composition of the African American community. Properties must provide a tangible link to the person (or persons) to which they are associated. Nomination preparers should use the guidelines for defining and placing this link in the appropriate context according to National Register Bulletin #32. There will be few instances where this criterion is used to nominate a property to the National Register under this theme.

Under Criterion C: Historic resources must survive with integrity and be able to communicate a tangible link to a common architectural period, style, or work of a master or to architectural features that distinguish a related group of buildings. This will most likely only include intentional communities that reflect a specific building typology that can be traced to the region from which the inhabitants migrated. While cohesive neighborhoods and individual buildings may reflect popular architectural styles and/or eras, they will likely not survive as the best example of that kind within a particular community. The types of buildings and architectural expression utilized in African American communities is not distinguishable from that used for working and middle-class white or other ethnic neighborhoods of the same period. There will be few instances where this criterion is used solely to nominate a property under this theme. An example of the type of resource that would be nominated under this category would be settlements from the Great Migration era that were occupied by a specific group of peoples and may reflect Southern regional building traditions

Under Criterion D: Historic resources that are associated with impermanent African American settlement and no longer survive as an above-ground resource may be nominated under Criterion D if sufficient information exists for the archaeological resource to communicate those physical and associative characteristics that would have defined such communities. Surviving examples of early African American settlements and intentional communities are rare, and may exist as historic archaeological sites. Their presence may or may not be recorded in period maps and aerial images, and oral history is likely the best source for identifying such a community.

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**G. Geographical Data**

This Multiple Property Documentation Form includes the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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**Page 31****H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “African American History in Pennsylvania; The Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political Legacy of African Americans in Pennsylvania, 1690-2010” theme study is based on a year long historical and survey study of the history of the African American community in Pennsylvania.

The study was developed and conducted by a project team that included National Register and Public History staff from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), a historian from the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP), one historian, one private practice historic preservation consultant, and two project interns. The PHMC and AAMP staff served as project coordinators, reviewers, and community liaisons, and provided guidance on the project goals, methodology, and reporting. The project historian completed all of the research and writing for Section E: Statement of Historic Contexts. The preservation consultant conducted the field surveys used to inform this study and completed Section F: Associated Property Types of this MPDF. Statements of methodology for each of these sections is presented below.

*Summary of Methodology used to Complete Section E:*  
To be provided by Craig Stutman.

*Summary of Methodology used to Complete Section F:*

This list of property types and the associated registration requirements is derived from reconnaissance- and limited intensive-level survey in nine case study communities and, in limited cases, from additional resources/locations identified through primary and secondary research as deemed important for understanding the African American experience in Pennsylvania.

In early 2008, staff from PHMC provided the project’s preservation consultant with a list of nine communities to be surveyed and analyzed both to inform this MPDF and to develop the associated property types and registration requirements. PHMC’s staff selected the communities based on geography, size, location, and known general developmental history to create a survey sampling that would represent a cross-section of different community types and experiences; Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were excluded from consideration given the quantity of scholarly research which had been completed in those communities prior to this study. The communities that inform the following discussions were chosen using the following criteria:

- **Geography:** the list provides for three communities within each of the eastern, central, and western regions of the state, and the also within the northern, central, and southern tiers.
- **Size:** Survey communities were chosen based on their size (generally defined by known population trends) in an effort to understand African American history for communities that date to various decades (i.e. Colonial-era slavery and intentional communities versus settlements spurred by the Great Migration of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- **Age:** The age, or chronological period, of the African American community in a target community is important to understanding the nature and focus of the community and the labor, industrial, and institutional characteristics of the community. For instance, the nature and profile of an older, more established African American community, particularly with respect to housing and institutional support, is distinctly different and often more permanent than in comparatively newer African American communities. This often goes hand in hand with the age of the community.
- **Industrial Heritage:** Concomitant to age, size, and geography, is the type of labor and industry in which African American residents were employed. Predominant local and regional industries often attracted African American laborers, be it the early 19<sup>th</sup> century lumber mills of north central Pennsylvania or the steel industries in early 20<sup>th</sup> century southeastern Pennsylvania, and provided the fundamental “reason for being” for many of the Commonwealth’s communities outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The surveyed communities are:

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## In Eastern Pennsylvania:

- Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County
- Stroudsburg, Monroe County
- Coatesville, Chester County

## In Central Pennsylvania:

- Williamsport, Lycoming County
- Mount Union, Huntingdon County
- Bedford, Bedford County

## In Western Pennsylvania:

- Meadville, Crawford County
- Indiana, Indiana County
- Washington, Washington County

In an effort to compile the most comprehensive list possible, the survey communities and additional resources were not vetted by time period, historical periods, function, style, etc. Given the broad nature of the companion MPDF context study and the overarching goal to document and understand the history of the African American community in Pennsylvania rather than just a single component of that history (i.e. UGRR or housing), the research team felt that it was important to identify as many historic resources as possible without prior disposition regarding what those resources might offer. The only requirement for being included within the survey was that the historic resource(s) have significant (rather than tenuous or tangential) associations with the African American community in some context at some point in history. Resources were generally not excluded from the survey based on their integrity because often, the lack of integrity, particularly within traditionally African American neighborhoods, is just as illustrative of the African American experience as those that retain their integrity. However, given the exceptionally broad nature of African American history in Pennsylvania, the project team placed the following parameters on the survey scope of work:

- The metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were not included because of the body of available, sound scholarship on the African American communities of the Commonwealth's largest cities.
- Resources largely associated with the Underground Railroad were not studied because of the extensive recent initiative by the National Park Service and because of the body of available lay and academic scholarship on this particular property type and culture.
- African American resources outside of the target community not identified through the course of research for that community or in contemporary published studies or unpublished manuscripts were not studied. Primary and secondary research often yielded information about satellite communities and/or culturally and/or historically significant resources. Scholarly studies, conducted on the local or state-level, also suggested sites in and around the target communities or their associated regions. For example, the Coatesville survey was focused on the identification of the historic African American neighborhood within the city limits. Through interviews, the project team identified the presence of a satellite neighborhood immediately north of the city limits significant for both its architecture and associations. Whenever possible, given the time constraints of this survey, those resources outside of the target communities were identified, visited, and documented.

Several limits of the study should be noted. As with any such initiative, time and financial restraints required the research team to be as efficient and effective as possible within the baseline scope of work. It was felt that many, if not all communities might benefit from additional research, particularly for historic resources that embody the African American experience prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Political, social, and economic conditions which characterized African American communities in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, combined with

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institutional prejudice that did not seek to record or preserve the African American experience, have made locating resources a challenge. As such, researching the built environment associated with African American history requires more research time and focus than is necessary for researching the history of the white community or properties that are associated with a particular building typology (i.e. schools, municipal buildings, etc.). More importantly, however, is that the target communities did not reveal resources associated with all themes or eras. Where possible, the survey scope was expanded to identify at least one surviving example of a historic resource that represents a particular era or theme.

Pennsylvania was a key player within the Underground Railroad (UGRR) movement because, among other considerations, it was the first free state north of the Mason-Dixon Line, and one with a strong and vocal abolitionist community. Historians and scholars have studied the UGR, its primary routes, and associated stations in Pennsylvania since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and within local, state, and national contexts. In response to the significance and importance of this movement within the greater context of national history, the National Park Service has initiated several programs dealing with the UGRR and has worked to study, recognize, and preserve resources associated with it. Given the breadth of UGRR subject matter and the degree to which it has been widely studied, it was determined that this particular tenet of African American history would not be included within this study.

The following methodology was used for researching and nominating resources significant for their association with the African American experience in Pennsylvania outside of the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It is a hybrid of traditional and specialized methodologies that is based on similar methodologies from comparable studies in Pennsylvania, guidance found in National Register Bulletins, and tested field techniques. It included the following steps:

1. Readings about African American history in Pennsylvania that included a presentation and discussion about the broad historical periods and concepts that constitute a significant part of the African American experience in Pennsylvania;
2. Background research into the broad history and development of each community;
3. Research specific to the African American experience in each target community, principally primary and secondary source data provided by Dr. Craig Stutman about each community, region, and theme (i.e. slavery, entertainment, sports, etc.)
4. Review of primary source data collected by survey team, principally census and Sanborn map data from multiple years;
5. Collection of graphic documentation through on-line databases and physical repositories;
6. Oral history transcripts from interviews conducted by Dr. Craig Stutman and Mr. Ivan Henderson;
7. Analysis of data and resulting settlement patterns, principally using Google Earth Pro, census data, and period maps
8. Reconnaissance and comprehensive-level field survey, targeting historic resources as directed by above data

1. Readings about African American history in Pennsylvania which included a presentation and discussion about the broad historical periods and concepts that constitute a significant part of the African American experience in Pennsylvania. The first step in designing the project methodology was to create a bibliography of contemporary scholarly sources that would provide for a working understanding of African American history in Pennsylvania. These sources, such as *African American in Pennsylvania: Shifting Historical Perspectives* (1997) and the published works of Charles Blockson, served to create a platform that was used to place the specific events in each community into larger contexts as needed to define and understand the settlement patterns and potential historic resources in each target community. These books provided essential background data such as significant dates and legislation that impacted the African American community, (particularly in the first several decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), important concepts such as the critical role of the

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church within the African American community, and the roles that Philadelphia and Pittsburgh played in the generation and dissemination of important movements and institutions.

In addition to published contemporary sources, period books and theses were used to develop an understanding of specific themes and experiences within the African American. The most useful information was provided by government studies and academic theses. Interestingly, these works were more readily located through social science and anthropological database rather than history and African American studies databases.

2. Background research into the broad history and development of each community. The second step in the research design was to develop an understanding about the specific history and development in each of the nine case study communities. This research provided for a second layer of data that helped to define and understand the African American experience in each community. Online research via databases and common search engines and the online catalogues of public libraries, academic libraries, private libraries, and historical societies provided a standard bibliography for each community. Sources consulted included period county histories, contemporary local histories, industry publications from county societies and statewide organizations, and lay histories. With few exceptions, all of this information was available on-line; the use of online materials was critical because it allowed the survey team to generate essential background data prior to field visits and accelerated what would otherwise be a lengthy phase of research.

In addition to locating primary and secondary research documents, the survey team also utilized PHMC's ARCH and CRGIS databases to gather information about previous studies within each target community. ARCH is currently available as an online repository for the majority of Pennsylvania's National Register nominations. While nominations were not typically present for African American resources in each community, they did provide helpful bibliographic information that assisted in accelerating the information-gathering process. The CRGIS database is the online GIS mapping and information clearinghouse for all buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects identified through various survey and review activities. This database was consulted first to ascertain what previously-identified resources existed with each community and later to cross-reference known sites with the neighborhood boundaries identified through this research and field survey.

3. Research specific to the African American experience in each target community. Traditional National Register scholarship relies heavily on primary sources and sparingly on secondary sources when establishing a history for and evaluation of a resource's eligibility. Given the historic bias against African American history and corresponding scarcity of easily-accessible information outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in traditional repositories (such local and regional historical societies), as well as the tendency of African American communities to retain their own stories as oral history within their own establishments (principally the church), it is exceptionally difficult to locate primary source information pertaining to African American history, particularly prior to the 1890s. The exception is any history associated with the Underground Railroad through Pennsylvania; even then, the African American history is related more to the story of white abolitionists and stations rather than the point of view of an African American participant.

As a result of this scenario, the survey team utilized a number of methods to gather as much data as possible about each African American community prior to field survey. This task is a multi-faceted one, which worked with a wide array of data and materials to delineate the survey boundaries. These sources and materials were used concurrently rather than sequentially throughout this phase of the project because of the various types of data offered at distinct chronological periods. To the greatest degree possible, the data gleaned from these sources and materials were mapped on the current (2005-2009) landscape via Google Earth Pro and the most recent Sanborn map set as way of identifying patterns and boundaries.

These sources and materials included:

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*Community Liaison(s):* Contacts were either provided by PHMC staff Karen James or by individuals in other target communities. In few instances, these contacts were generated by cold calls from Dr. Stutman. Understanding that the project team was approaching these communities as outsiders, in both a literal and figurative sense, and that community involvement was critical to the success of this initiative, the project team contacted community representatives who were believed would be both interested in and helpful to this project. These representatives would often serve as ambassadors to us in each community and vouched acted as agents and stewards that provided access to both information and residents.

Whenever possible, contacts were asked to identify the location of the African American community (or previous locations) so as to target field views to the greatest degree possible. In the interest of time, the survey team used information from the community liaison obtained by Dr. Craig Stutman during the oral history interview process if they were unable to meet directly with the liaison.

*Church congregations and facilities:* Understanding the central and important role faith and church played in African American communities, the survey team often established the presence and general location of the community by locating an historic AME, AME Zion, or Union AME church using period maps. A church's construction date and the number of churches and/or congregations in a municipality provided immediately useful data about an existing or former African American neighborhood. These facilities also provided the project team with willing community liaisons and often helped to foster the team's relationship with the African American community.

Beyond its physical and obvious role in a community, a congregation often served as the de facto historical society for the African American community. Not only did the church function as a vehicle for worship, congregations also acted in many social and institutional roles in the African American community such as those related to welfare, recreation, entertainment, and education. Recognizing the importance of this multi-layered responsibility, the project team accessed the unofficial and official congregation archives whenever possible.

*Census:* Census data is critical to understand the forces that have shaped a particular neighborhood or community and how it functioned within the context of the larger entity. Early in the project it became clear that when researching a neighborhood that is documented as or suspected of being historically African American, census data must be used in identifying any geographic settlement patterns (i.e. whether the community is static or stationary), defining neighborhood boundaries (i.e. size and shape), and the establishing socio-economic personality of the neighborhood at different periods of time (i.e. occupations and economic class). In most cases, census data provided the majority of the information about the African American experience in each target community and served as the primary basis for many of the conclusions drawn about that experience.

Using census data in this manner, which is often the only vehicle through which African American neighborhoods can be specifically located, is time consuming and labor intensive. Identifying a specific neighborhood in which the African American community resided was often the first step in the research process, and by understanding the nature of the neighborhood, other information was brought to light. For example, once census data has established the limits of an African American neighborhood, other sources like newspapers, city directories, and other types of community listings were consulted. This allowed the survey team to determine if significant single resources exist independent of a potential historic district, to understand what particular role an institution or individual might have played in the African American story, and whether or not that story is communicated through the built environment.

Early data, typically prior to 1880 (although the actual date was found to vary by locale and data recordation style), is helpful in quantifying the number of African Americans resident within a community

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and in establishing their related settlement patterns. It will not provide, however, data on the specific location of the African American neighborhood within the larger community beyond a street listing. Without this information, or additional sources from which to develop this information (like maps or the presence of a datable AME or AME Zion church), pinpointing and documenting the early community can be almost impossible. The most useful sets of census data dated to 1910, 1920, and 1930 because they were the most comprehensive and consistent in providing house numbers for each surveyed building. This provided the survey team with the opportunity to identify specific geographical locations and to better understand some of the housing characteristics of that neighborhood. Understanding that house numbers and streetscapes change over time, all census data was mapped on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the closest available years.

Census data used for this project was taken from original documents accessed through the Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) website.

*Primary Source Data:* There were several types of primary source data that were collected and consulted during the course of the historic resource survey from several types of repositories. These included scholarly studies, lay histories, church histories, newspapers, and assembled vertical subject files. The majority of the primary source research data was provided to the survey team by Dr. Craig Stutman.

With few exceptions, very limited information was available through traditional research repositories. Local branches of the county library system typically yielded more data than did historical societies, museums or archives. Within these collections, researchers were sometimes successful in finding information using subject headings that were tangentially related to African American heritage, such as industry, immigration, and urban planning studies.

Scholarly studies by institutional and academic authors provided a great deal of information not only about important themes within the African American community (i.e. housing), but they also provided for specific statistical information about a particular community and its characteristics. Within municipal governments (city or county), urban planning studies of the 1950s through the 1970s provided key information about comparatively recent changes to the landscape within traditional African American neighborhoods, reflections on how governing agencies viewed the African American community, and how African American neighborhoods have been marginalized within their communities.

Within the group of primary source materials, newspaper articles, scholarly studies, and "lay materials", which includes the loose collection of data gathered from vertical files, personal files, church histories, and amateur community or genealogical histories, were equally important. With regard to the latter genre of materials, approximately half of the target communities had amateur histories from a citizen or historical society staff person that provided invaluable information that would have taken a great deal more time to collect. Dr. Stutman utilized online newspaper databases for African American newspapers for relevant community information and provided pertinent articles to the survey team. While the articles were interesting for their historic and cultural associations, they were not as helpful in identifying specific information about a location, institution, or event.

Researchers were able to locate directories specific to Pennsylvania's African American community that were invaluable in providing additional data about some of the target communities. One, *Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory* was published in 1910 and provides general information about "the industrial and material growth of the Negroes of Pennsylvania" and includes statistical information about African Americans in all of Pennsylvania's counties as well as advertisements and data about African American fraternal organizations. City directories were not particularly helpful with this research unless the publisher somehow indicated the race of a citizen or institution.

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*Maps, Atlases, and Aerial Images:* All available period maps and aerial images depicting the subject area were consulted. Sanborn maps were the most consistently utilized set because of the thoroughness of their documentation, the frequency of re-mapping, and the ability to more comprehensively reflect the built environment at a particular moment in time. Sanborn maps of the project area were printed and those years that most closely coincided with census years were assembled and used as the vehicle to map the census data and historic research data and to define the survey boundaries and properties of interest. While they were the most useful graphic for working with the census data, the Sanborn maps did have some notable limitations: 1) documentation for any community in general, and the African American neighborhood in particular, was typically not provided prior to ca. 1885 and 2) documentation for any community was not available in any useful manner after ca. 1940. County atlases, in limited areas, included the African American section prior to Sanborn coverage but this information was rarely reliable or useful. Aerial images were used to gather information post 1940.

Aerial images from a number of repositories were also consulted and used to assess broader changes to the built environment, particularly from the 1930s through the 1960s. Images were downloaded from the Pennsylvania Geological Survey collection of Pennsylvania State Archives through Penn State University's website ([www.pennpilot.psu.edu](http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu)) and from the Dallin Aerial Survey Company Photograph Collection through the Hagley Museum's digital archive ([www.digital.hagley.org](http://www.digital.hagley.org)). These latter photographs were particularly useful in providing information about communities that have been radically changed through human intervention or natural disaster.

*Oral History:* As noted in the National Register Bulletin "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties", oral histories must be included in any methodology that seeks to identify and document resources associated with a specific ethnological or cultural group. For this project, oral history provided for a base of information that could not be located through more traditional sources. These histories were used to supplement the available historic data, and to identify satellite areas in and around the African American community that were hitherto unidentified through other means.

Dr. Craig Stutman, often with the assistance of Ivan Henderson/AAMP and AAMP intern Monica Rhodes, conducted all oral history interviews and provided the data as transcripts to the survey team in February 2009.

4. Field Survey: Field survey of the target communities and additional sites was conducted throughout the spring and summer of 2008 and completed in the spring of 2009. With few exceptions, at least two visits (concurrently or separately) were made to each community by the survey team. Each visit began with a windshield survey of the entire community and then specifically of the assumed or known African American neighborhood(s). Field survey teams then walked the target communities, as defined by census data and other available data, and noted predominant patterns of development, common and uncommon architectural periods and styles, if anomalies existed from traditional and typical community development, presence of an historic commercial corridor (either functioning, intact, or extinct), and the presence and disposition of significant structures. In most cases, the contemporary landscape was compared against the latest available Sanborn map that had been annotated with corresponding census data. Visual assessments of the built environment were recorded on the Sanborn maps as field notes.

The survey area was recorded with digital photography using a Nikon D40X with an 18-55mm lens. Within the survey area, individual resources and group of resources were also documented. For larger districts, UTM points were taken via a handheld Magellan GPS device at defining corners, per National Register standards for defining boundaries. UTM points were also collected for churches and other significant or substantial above-ground resources (i.e. public housing development, fraternal lodge, cemetery, etc.). The computer program GoogleEarth Pro was also used to secure UTM points for resources that were not recorded in the field.

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