

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

41

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

LACAWAC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Salem and Paupact Townships

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

10

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Nature Conservancy

STREET & NUMBER

1800 North Kent Street

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22209

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Honesdale

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/19/78

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lacawac was built in 1903 as the summer estate of the Honorable William Connell and originally consisted of a complex of 8 buildings. All were built in a rustic style popular in the Adirondacks and Berkshires for summer homes at the turn of the century. The architect is not known however three local artisans, the Kriegers, Stermers and Martin, were involved in the construction. All of the 8 structures were sided in cedar shingles, and their architectural unity is apparent.

The main house is a two and one half story frame structure measuring 42 feet by 102 feet, with a cross gable roof. The house has 13 gable roofed dormers and three chimneys. Of the 52 windows, there are 16 different sizes and shapes. Perhaps the most impressive feature of the house is its large two-story porches. They originally extended along both sides. The principal alteration to the house was the removal of the exposed porches on the north and south sides and the replacement of the oak log trim in 1947 by sawed hemlock beams.

The interior is little altered and is entirely panelled in southern yellow pine, with the exception of one room which was originally a huge interior water tank. The original lighting was gas and a number of the gas jets remain. Much of the original furnishings remain and an effort has been made within the past several years to restore and recreate the charm of the original, using furnishings typical of the lifestyle of the principal occupants.

The barn is a two and one half story frame structure measuring 30 feet by 60 feet covered with cedar shingles. The spring house measures 8 feet by 12 feet. The Pump House measures 12 feet by 13 feet and is a one story frame structure with a hipped roof. The Coachman's Cabin is now used as a library and is a one-story frame structure measuring 13 feet by 22 feet and has a hipped roof. The Ice House measures 22 feet by 27 feet and is a two story frame structure with a gable roof. It was converted into a residence in 1950.

The remaining buildings were the boat house, demolished in 1947, and the deer house, demolished during World War II.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wallenpaupack Manor, a tract of 20,000 acres surrounding the present basin of Lake Wallenpaupack, was retained by the Penn family until 1849. In that year their resident manager sold the Wallenpaupack Manor to Burton G. Morss. Morss built a sawmill and tannery at Ledgesdale in that year and commenced the harvesting of the virgin forests of the area for lumber and tan bark which continued until the tannery burned in 1895. During that time, the Morss family did not build any buildings at Lacawac, but, their house being only a couple of miles away, they did use the lake at Lacawac for fishing.

At the turn of the century the Lacawac property was purchased from the Morss family by William Connell. William Connell was a wealthy coal operator from Scranton who was also a U.S. Congressman and operated a large button manufacturing business in Scranton. Connell built the original complex of buildings at Lacawac as a summer estate. In addition to the big house there were numerous other structures including a boat-house, an ice house, a pump house, a spring house, a separate building to house a coachman, a large barn and a 'deer house'. Deer were virtually extinct in this part of Pennsylvania at that time; and William Connell built a deer fence of chestnut posts with wire mesh topped by several strands of barbed wire four miles around the property to contain the Virginia deer which he stocked at Lacawac. The 'deer house' was a structure used for feeding the deer in the winter time. The present herd of deer in Northeastern Pennsylvania, then, are descended from these which William Connell introduced and from the similarly introduced herd on the Blooming Grove Club in Pike County.

The buildings, built in 1903, were in a rustic style popular at the turn of the century for country estates in the Berkshires and Adirondacks. The main house is panelled in southern yellow pine. An extensive network of copper tubing in the walls brought acetylene gas from a separate building to the gas fittings which provided the lighting. The furnishings, much of which remain, consisted of 'Mission' furniture in oak and of wicker.

In constructing the buildings, it was necessary to set up a tent colony for the construction workers. Materials were shipped by rail to Lake Ariel, and hauled in horse-drawn wagons over seven miles of rough dirt roads from the railway.

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A one-lung steam engine was used to pump water from the lake to a huge water tank on the second floor of the main house. Because the family wanted to drink the water from the lake, the sewer lines were 6 inch terra cotta, running almost a quarter of a mile to land outside the Lacawac watershed. As a result of this kind of precaution against contamination, the lake is one of the least disturbed glacial lakes in the region and was declared in 1968 the 86th Registered National Natural Landmark by the Department of the Interior. It has been described as the "southernmost unpolluted glacial lake in the United States." Lacawac has also proved to be rich in archaeological features and artifacts.

William Connell died in 1909. It was an arduous and dusty trip out to Lacawac in those days, and running an establishment of this sort was difficult. The Connell heirs were glad to sell the property to Col. Louis A. Watres and his family in 1913.

Though relatives and friends of the Watres family used the property sporadically through the years, Col. Watres was little attracted by an undisturbed natural setting. A man of diverse interests; he had held a variety of elective offices including state senator and lieutenant governor. He published the Scranton Truth and Scranton Republican newspapers. He organized an insurance company, a bank, a trust company and several traction companies serving the Lackawanna Valley. He also organized the Spring Brook Water Company, one of the main components of the present Pennsylvania Gas & Water Company. In the early years of the century, he recognized the Wallenpaupack basin as one of the finest reservoir sites in the region, and organized the Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey Power Company, to build the Wallenpaupack dam and power plant. Lacawac was one of hundreds of properties which had to be acquired in order to flood the basin. Col. Watres' son, Col. Laurence H. Watres, for ten years the U.S. Congressman from Northeastern Pennsylvania, was Secretary and General Counsel for the Power Company, and did most of the legal work of assembling the land holdings, abandoning of highways, cemeteries and so forth. It is interesting to note that the Company did not have the power of eminent domain, and was obliged to bargain for every square inch of the land, a remarkable accomplishment even at the turn of the century. The Guaranty Trust Company of New York issued a \$25,000,000 mortgage on the Wallenpaupack in 1913, to enable the company to clear the site and construct the dam and power plant. On completion

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of the project, negotiations were opened when the Lackawanna Railroad for purchase of the facility, to electrify the railroad across the Poconos. This negotiation broke down, however, and the facility was purchased by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, the present licence holder.

In 1966, seeking to secure the Lacawac property from commercialization, it was deeded to a non-profit corporation to be used for scientific and educational purposes. An affiliation was developed with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, with increasing use by a large number of other colleges, universities, schools and the general public. Thousands of people have visited the Sanctuary on its public tours. These educational rambles, encompassing the best scenic variety of the Sanctuary, feature a great diversity of interest: the geological past of the region; the human history, including the evidence of indian occupation; the history of forestry; the ecology of the terrestrial and the aquatic environments at Lacawac. Of central interest to many of the visitors, however, is the 'big-house', representing as it does a generous and vanished life-style.

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Owing to unregulated hunting, the deer herd of Northeastern Pennsylvania had been virtually eliminated by the beginning of the 20th century. William Connell re-established the herd by reintroducing deer from Virginia at the time he purchased Lacawac. He had built an immense deer fence, four miles around the property, of chestnut posts and wire mesh topped by several strands of barbed wire to contain the deer. The deer were fed in the winter at the "deer house". Fragments of the fence remain. Since 1966 the Lacawac Sanctuary has been officially dedicated to scientific research and education, serving a score of colleges and universities and numbers of public school systems by programs of conservation education. Lacawac was designated the 86th Registered National Natural Landmark in 1968.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 461.55

QUADRANGLE NAME Lakeville & Newfoundland

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 475420 4581740

B 18 475820 4581390

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 18 476560 4580660

D 18 476220 4580780

E 18 474620 4580780

F 18 474560 4580660

G 18 474910 4580580

H 18 475100 4581200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Kobler, Curator

ORGANIZATION

The Lacawac Sanctuary of the Nature Conservancy

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. #1

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lake Ariel

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

