

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic N/A

and/or common Park Site 36La96

**2. Location**

street & number [REDACTED] not for publication

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lancaster code 071

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name County of Lancaster

street & number Court House, 50 N. Duke Street

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state PA 17602

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Lancaster County Court House

street & number 50 N. Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania 17602

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Archaeological Site Survey Recording Program  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records William Penn Memorial Museum

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania 17120

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		_____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Site 36La96 is located in the Lancaster County Park, 1 mile south of the city of Lancaster. It is in the Lowlands portion of the [REDACTED] on a hilltop (elevation 400 feet), overlooking meanders of the Conestoga and the smaller Mill Creek. About 1500 square feet of an unmarked Indian cemetery were excavated on the knoll. Although test excavations were not made around the perimeter and across the knoll, it is expected that the Park site extends over the entire knoll. Its similarity to Conestoga Town and Conoy Town which are excavated 18th century Lancaster County Indian burial sites is justification for this statement. A conservative estimate is that about 3/4 of the original cemetery is intact; however, a [REDACTED] have destroyed part of the site. A bronze plaque, erected by the County [REDACTED] is dedicated to these 18th century Indians. Four small concrete markers define the limits of the excavated burials.

The Park site is at the closest juxtaposition of the Conestoga and Mill Creek before they join and flow southwesterly for about 10 miles to the Susquehanna River. Soils in the site area belong to the Conestoga silt loam series which are well drained and underlain by micaceous limestone. Originally, the vegetation was a mixed deciduous forest of oak, hickory and poplar but at present the site area is a grassy field which is incorporated into the park's fitness trail. Outcroppings of micaceous limestone bedrock are common across the hillside and crosscut the excavated area.

The site was discovered in May, 1979 during the excavation of a trench for a waterline by park employees who recognized the possibility that they had encountered human bones with their backhoe. Osseous material from the trench and spoil pile were identified by forensic anthropologist Wilton M. Krogman, Ph.D., H. K. Cooper Clinic Institute, as American Indian. After this positive identification Dr. W. Fred Kinsey, North Museum, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA and Dr. Jay F. Custer, Anthropology Department, University of Delaware, Newark, DE made a preliminary assessment of the site.

Based upon a two day examination of the burials and European made artifacts found in the backhoe trench, Kinsey and Custer found that at least two interments were present and that they dated to the first quarter of the 18th century. They recommended that archaeological excavations be carried out in the vicinity of the trench. Edward Schwar, Park Superintendent, made arrangements for an archaeological investigation of the site and the Lancaster County Commissioners unanimously approved a proposal calling for a 5 week project during June and July, 1979. The goals of the project were to test the right-of-way in order to make certain that no additional historic or prehistoric remains would be destroyed by construction activities and to carry out controlled excavations in the area adjacent to where the initial skeletal remains were first encountered so as to determine the nature, extent, cultural affiliation and significance of these manifestations.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input 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"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input checked="" 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 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

N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Beginning in the 16th century, European contact severely impacted and greatly disrupted native American cultures on the eastern seaboard. During the last quarter of the 17th and the first half of the 18th century, Lancaster County was a haven for various displaced or refugee Indian groups from the Middle Atlantic area. Local research by Barry C. Kent (1980, research in progress) has resulted in the location, excavation and identification of two major Indian town sites (Conestoga and Conoy) of this period. The Park site cemetery is added to this list.

The significance of the Park site is manifold. It has contributed important data on lifestyle, burial customs, ideology, material culture, demography and pathology to this group of acculturated Indians during a poorly understood period of Indian and white relations. In terms of the total unexcavated cemetery, there is the potential to contribute considerably more significant information. Fundamental research can be addressed through the opportunities presented by the Park site and the contemporary related sites. Included among these are the nature of culture change when a preliterate society is brought into contact and conflict with the powerful commercial and political interests of western Europe. Research opportunities include how native lifestyles, ideologies and other basic concepts and practices are altered. Native diet changes and this is reflected in disease and pathologies evidenced in the skeletal remains and in the dentition. The impact of native American cultures upon Europe is also a significant, but largely neglected research possibility.

In addition to the Conestoga-Susquehannocks, 18th century refugee Indians in Lancaster County include such displaced southern Algonquians as Conoy, Piscataway, and Nanticoke as well as groups of Delaware and Shawnee. The traditional cultural practices of these Indians blur and merge through intermarriage, political alliances and other bonding mechanisms. The Park site provides specific examples of early 18th century native interaction. Finally, Kinsey and Custer (mss.) hypothesize that there are age and sex differences reflected in the distribution of grave offerings, especially with the glass and shell beads. This hypothesis needs to be tested.

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Kent, Barry C.

1980 Conoy Town on the Lower Susquehanna River 1718-43. Eastern States Archeological Federation Bulletin, No. 30.

Kinsey, W. Fred & Jay F. Custer A Study in History and Archaeology: The Park Site (36La9) and the Refugee Complex in Lancaster County 1680-1763. No date

Accepted for publication in the Penna. Archaeologist

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.4 acres

Quadrangle name Lancaster

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A [REDACTED]  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

(See attached )

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state   code   county   code  

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. W. Fred Kinsey, Director, North Museum

organization Franklin and Marshall College date July 1982

street & number P. O. Box 3003 telephone (717) 291-3943

city or town Lancaster state Pennsylvania 17604

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

### State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date  

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date  

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date  

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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2

Findings include 10 graves (9 single interments and 1 containing 3 individuals) with the following age and sex ratios: 2 adult males, 1 adult female, 2 young adult females, 1 adolescent, 3 young children, 1 infant and 2 persons of undetermined age and sex. There were European-made artifacts (2322 glass beads, several ball clay pipes variously marked "Lewis", "IA" and "R Tippett", gunflints, tweezers, iron nails, jews harp, glass pitcher handle, metal bracelets, silver cross or brooch, several buttons and a piece of fabric) and native-made materials (shell beads, shell pendant, and 3 catlinite/red pipestone ornaments). Several 18th century historical sources refer to the Indians along Mill Creek and these include the papers of Isaac Taylor, surveyor, a letter from James Steel to Isaac Taylor (Oct. 24, 1714), accounts of two early settlers, Christopher Schlegel and Anthony Pretter and others. Historical documentation and the associated artifacts date the Park site to the first quarter of the 18th century. In spite of the abundant historical documentation, the cultural affiliation of the Park site burials is not proven. Kinsey and Custer (n.d.) have hypothesized that they are refugee Conestoga-Susquehannock Indians who settled outside the main and contemporary nearby Indian town at Conestoga, Lancaster County.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

10

4

A rectangular area 600'x320', whose long axis is oriented east and west. Northern boundary lies

[REDACTED] Boundaries are coterminous with the knoll where the burials were excavated. Evidence from two nearby 18th century Indian sites is the justification for these boundaries.