

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Forest Grove Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Buckingham Township _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bucks code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse

street & number Main & Court Streets

city, town Doylestown state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bucks County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date 1979-80 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records PHMC/Bucks County Conservancy

city, town Harrisburg/Doylestown 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

Forest Grove is a small residential community in the western section of Buckingham Township, Bucks County, Pa. The entire proposed historic district is surrounded by an open agricultural area. It is situated at the convergence of Lower Mountain, Upper Mountain and Forest Grove Roads. It lies on an agricultural plain, southwest of Buckingham Village, northwest of Wycombe and southeast of Furlong.

The architecture of the town is vernacular and simple, reflecting in the broadest sense architectural trends influencing the rural landscape of central Bucks County. An evaluation of the homes shows: 19 are 19th century, 20 are 2½ stories high, 17 are a single rectangular units (with only shed additions), 17 have plain gable roofs, 17 are one pile deep and 13 are three bays wide. This homogeneous building style (a single frame unit, 3 or 4 bays wide, single pile, 2½ stories high with a gable roof) served the lower and middle income class and by contrast called attention to those homes that differed from it. Age is suggested by building materials. The oldest homes (6-18-40, 6-17-92, 6-20-14) are of stone. Brick was used for two homes c. 1820. The remaining houses were built later of wood. Different roof styles did not occur until the 1870's when the Mansard not only added unique line and grace to two new farmhouses (6-18-12 and 6-17-98), but also added living space. The Gothic cross gable was used in various ways to achieve similar effect (6-20-10, 6-20-18, and 6-20-9). Cornice brackets on 6-20-5 and "lie-on-your-stomach" windows on 6-20-6 add slight variations to ordinary buildings. Four homes have front dormers which give additional distinction and apparent height. Two adjacent front doors appear frequently on homes in Forest Grove. This was a trend between the 1820's and 1850's for single family homes, but might indicate two-family dwellings in a village this size. Double-pile construction tends to distinguish homes built for grandeur. 6-17-92, 6-20-8, 6-20-13, 6-18-12, and 6-20-18, in addition to distinctive roof styles or construction materials, are double-pile, giving them more interior living space and majestic exterior proportions.

The William Kirk Store (6-20-12) and Freyling's Hall (6-20-11) are very plain public or service structures and with the church and Odd Fellows Hall are distinguishable from the residences by the orientation of gable ends towards the street.

Nearly all the properties have small barns or wagon sheds - frame, 1 3/4 stories high and largely unaltered. Farm barns are on parcels 6-17-98, 6-17-92 and 6-18-12, and last two with stone foundations. Stone walls are all that remain of the large frame barn of 6-18-40.

Within this well maintained rural village, there are 27 properties one of which is the Presbyterian church cemetery. There are 2 parcels of open land without structures and 3 intrusions. Altogether, there are 26 major and 20 minor buildings, all of which are historic structures. The breakdown by periods is as follows:

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Forest Grove H. D., Bucks County

Continuation sheet

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1700's

1 fieldstone residence, 2½ story

Late 1700's/early 1800's

- 1 stone filled frame residences, 2½ story
- 1 brick residence, 2½ story
- 1 plastered over stone residence, 2½ story
- 1 stone filled frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 plastered over fieldstone residence, 2½ story

1800's

- 1 frame and stone barn/garage, 2 story
- 1 stone filled r-sidence (manse), 2½ story
- 1 frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 stone filled frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 stone filled frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 stone filled barn/garage (formerly Odd Fellows Hall), 2 story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2 3/4 story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame residence, presently Antique shop (formerly Fryling's Hall) 1½ story
- 1 frame (possible stone filled) residence/post office, 2½ story
- 1 stone filled frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 2 story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 fieldstone barn, roof caved in, 2 story
- 1 frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 brick residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame garage/barn, 2 story

Late 1800's/early 1900's

- 1 frame shed, 1 story
- 1 frame residence, 3 story
- 1 frame barn, 2 story
- 1 frame (possibly stone filled) residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 2 story

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- 1 frame barn, 2 story
- 1 fieldstone church, 2 story
- 1 frame garage, 1½ story
- 1 frame garage, 1½ story
- 1 frame residence, first manse now apartments, 2 story
- 1 frame residence, 2½ story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 1½ story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 1 story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 2 story
- 1 frame garage, 1 story
- 1 frame barn, 2 story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 1 story
- 1 frame garage/shed, 2 story
- 1 frame shed, 2½ story
- 1 frame corn crib, 1 story

Building Inventory: Intrusions:

1. 7-20-8 (B) Forest Grove Auto Body, 1960-1975, Lot SE COR Forest Grove Road & Lower Mt. Road
Description: Stuccoed cinderblock construction, slight salt-box shape roof with asphalt shingles, small cupola on roof, 1½ story. Building size-approximately 60' x 30'.
2. 6-20-7 (B) Garage, 1950-1975, Lot W S L Mountain Road 248 feet South Forest Grove Road
Description: Cinderblock construction, stuccoed exterior, gable roof with asphalt shingles, 1 story, 2 bay.
3. 6-20-16 Mobile home, 1960-1975, Lot W S L Mountain Road, 447 feet North Forest Grove Road
Description: Mobile home on concrete pad, metal siding, white and tan color, 1 story.

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 type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Forest Grove is significant as a preserved 19th century rural village, founded at the convergence of two old roads. It grew because it was a convenient location for houses to cluster. It is an example of a village that grew that way. Nine such villages grew in rural central Bucks County, but Forest Grove has been preserved because its economy did not flourish in the 20th century. Social life centered around a Presbyterian church and a lodge building built by the International Order of Odd Fellows, both of which are still standing.

Early in the 19th century, the town was called Forrestville. In 1877, at the time the post office was established, the name was changed because there was another Forrestville in the state. In Place Names in Bucks Co. George MacReynolds suggests that the name is derived from a heavily timbered grove which once surrounded the town. As early as 1701, land grants were being broken up into working farms in this region. Lower Mountain Road, from the bridge over the Neshaminy Creek at Bridge Valley, as well as Forest Grove Road, appear on a 1774 map of Bucks County. Lower Mountain Road traversed the broad agricultural plains of Buckingham and Solebury Townships south of Buckingham Mountain to the crossing of the Neshaminy Creek at York Road, about 1½ miles from Forest Grove. Although large farms were settled in this area by 1740, two smaller farm sites oriented close to Lower Mountain Road were established around this time (6-18-40 and 6-17-92 on the East and West corners of the present intersection). Forest Grove Road ran from Lower Mountain Road near Patrick Malone's house (6-18-40) to the John Lacey grist mill at Wycombe village. The proximity of these two farmsteads to this intersection encouraged additional buildings, several residences appearing along Lower Mountain Road in the early 1800's. The 1830's through 1850's saw Forest Grove take shape along both roads, with the William Kirk store on the corner and the Odd Fellows Hall and church as meeting places. Two smaller farms were established in the 1870's (6-18-12 and 6-17-98) on the edges of the village. Only a few homes have been built since then.

Since little has been written about Forest Grove, lifelong residents were interviewed. They described what it was like in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It was a community of families who farmed comparatively large tracts of land, producing corn, other grains, fruits, vegetables, chickens, eggs and dairy products. Included in the proposed district are portions of working farms (6-17-92).

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Social and Religious Life of the community centered around the Presbyterian Church. According to The Church in the Grove, 75 Years of the Forrestville Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Jesse Penney Martin, as early as 1846 some church services were held at Odd Fellows Hall (parcel #6-20-5). To build a church a meeting was held in 1853 at the home of Joshua T. Bewley (parcel #6-18-40) and money subscribed to purchase 2 acres from William Kirk. By November 21, 1855, the simple, plastered-over stone building and its furnishings were dedicated. The walls and ceiling were frescoed. In 1940 they were painted over. The building is now a lovely pointed stone structure with added belfry and Greek Revival style porch. (6-18-13)

The Odd Fellows filled a pressing need before the days of insurance and social legislation. George MacReynolds says that as the approximate date the hall was last used by the Odd Fellows was 1870. The lodge hall (6-20-5B) was used for many affairs, political rallies, lectures and community parties. In 1852 a "daguerrian artist" offered his services daily at the hall and in 1853 an itinerant photographer, advertised to "preserve your phiz" there. The hall stands unaltered today.

Commerce. Sometime after 1847 William M. Kirk started to operate a general store on the north corner of Forest Grove and Lower Mountain roads (6-20-12). Here he sold foods, clothing, tools, farm implements, etc. The post office was also located in his store. 1850-1900 saw the greatest commercial activity. Forest Grove supported a blacksmith (parcel 6-20-2) and a wheelwright. The 1871 Hershey Business Directory & Gazeteer of Bucks County records "about 20 houses, a store, blacksmith and wheelwright shops and an Odd Fellows Hall. The 1894 Scott's Bucks County Directory lists a blacksmith, a butcher (#6-20-14) and a dealer in agricultural tools. In the 1905 Directory Isaac W. Ryan, who had been Bucks County Commissioner in 1881-1884, is listed as a lumber dealer (parcel #6-20-18). He also owned a sawmill in Bridge Valley. The 1914 Bucks County Directory lists one shoemaker. At present the only business is an antique store (parcel #6-30-11), formerly Fryling's Hall, which was built in the 1920's for social activities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Bucks County, William W.H. Davis, A.E. Lear, Inc. Publishers, Pipersville, Pa. 1975 reprint of second edition, Vol. 1. The 1871 Hersey Business Directory & Gazeteer of Bucks County, S. Hersey publisher, Wilmington, Delaware. The Church in the Grove, 75 Years of the Forrestville

10. Geographical Data

Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jesse Penney Martin, n.p., (Autumn 1928).

Acreage of nominated property 34

Quadrangle name Buckingham, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	4	9	4	5	6	0	4	4	6	0	2	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	8	4	9	5	0	2	0	4	4	6	0	1	8	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

1	8	4	9	5	1	7	0	4	4	6	0	0	2	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

1	8	4	9	4	8	7	0	4	4	5	9	7	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

1	8	4	9	4	6	7	0	4	4	5	9	9	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

1	8	4	9	4	4	9	0	4	4	6	0	1	8	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

Zone		Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gwen R. Davis

organization Buckingham Township Historical Committee date July 30, 1980

street & number Old York Road, Box 413 telephone 215-794-8836

city or town Buckingham state Pennsylvania 18912

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

Larry E. Tise, Executive Director
title Pa. Historical & Museum Commission date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Forest Grove Historic District

Section 10 - Continuation Sheet No. 1

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the extended center lines of Forest Grove Road (LR09049 - 33 feet wide) and Upper Mountain Road (Township Road #385- 33 feet wide) in line; thence along the first mentioned road, South 50 degrees East 814.45 feet.

Thence continuing along same South 50 degrees East 420 feet to a corner of land now or late Chapman Kirk; said corner being North 50 degrees 15 minutes West 447.52 feet from the point of intersection of the center lines of aforementioned Forest Grove Road and Lower Mountain Road (Twp. Road 383.33 feet wide.)

Thence by said Kirk's land North 39 degrees 30 minutes East 191.73 feet, passing over an iron pin 30.00 feet from the beginning of this line to an iron pin;

Thence still by same South 50 degrees 15 minutes East 183.52 feet to an iron pin being a corner in the line of said Kirk's land

Thence along same North 46 degrees East 41.67 feet; North 40 degrees East 285.1 feet to a stone;

Thence by same, South 18 degrees 6 minutes East 249.1 feet to an iron pin a corner;

Thence South 44 degrees 57 minutes East 38.1 feet to a corner in the aforesaid Lower Mountain Road;

Thence 38.1 feet to a corner in the aforesaid Lower Mountain Road;

Thence along land now or late Abner Walton, deceased, South 49 degrees East 463.75 feet;

Thence by a line parallel to the aforesaid Mountain Road South 40 degrees West 578.25 feet to a corner in the middle of the aforesaid Forest Grove Road:

Thence along same North 47 3/4 degrees West 226 feet to a spike being 209 feet South 45 degrees 4 minutes East from the intersection of the center lines of aforesaid Forest Grove Road and the aforesaid Lower Mountain Road; a corner of these lands and lands now or late Earl Flosdorf;

Thence along same and through the lands now or late Irving R. Tabershaw & Ernest Kapp, South 44 degrees West 781.65 feet passing over an iron pin 16.22 feet from the beginning of this line to a point in the line of land now or late Philip Simon;

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Forest Grove Historic District

Section 10 - Continuation Sheet No. 2

Thence by same North 50 degrees and 3/4 West approximately 206 feet to a stone in aforesaid Lower Mountain Road:

Thence along same North 39 degrees East approximately 86.15 feet to a corner of lands now or late Robert W. Drummond; being 697.6 feet Southwest of the intersection of the aforesaid Lower Mountain Road and the aforesaid Forest Grove Road:

Thence by the said Drummond's land North 51 degrees 538.54 feet to a corner; thence by same North 38 degrees 46 minutes, East 127.87 feet to a corner;

Thence North 51 degrees 14 minutes West 292.8 feet;

Thence North 38 degrees and 46 minutes East 297.6 feet;

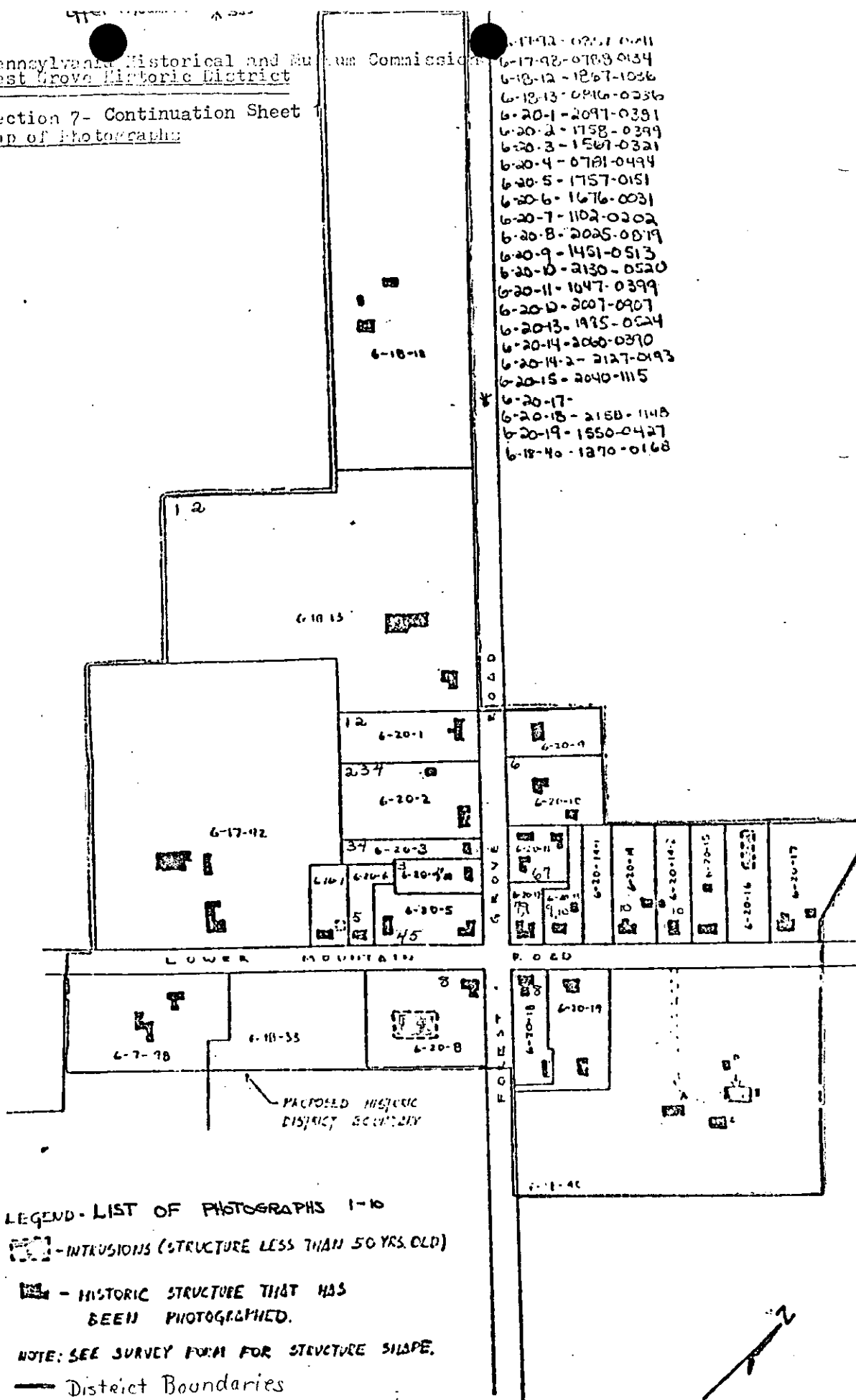
Thence North 50 degrees West approx. 345.3 feet by land now or late Lewis VanPelt to a corner in center of the aforesaid Upper Mountain Road:

Thence along same 264 feet to the place of beginning.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 Forest Grove Historic District

Section 7- Continuation Sheet
 Map of Photographs

- 6-17-92-0703-0134
- 6-18-12-1267-1036
- 6-18-13-0816-0236
- 6-20-1-2097-0391
- 6-20-2-1758-0399
- 6-20-3-1567-0321
- 6-20-4-0781-0494
- 6-20-5-1757-0151
- 6-20-6-1676-0031
- 6-20-7-1102-0202
- 6-20-8-2025-0819
- 6-20-9-1451-0513
- 6-20-10-2130-0520
- 6-20-11-1047-0399
- 6-20-12-2007-0907
- 6-20-13-1975-0224
- 6-20-14-2060-0370
- 6-20-14-2-2127-0193
- 6-20-15-2040-1115
- 6-20-17-
- 6-20-18-2150-1148
- 6-20-19-1550-0427
- 6-18-40-1270-0168



LEGEND - LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS 1-10

- INTRUSIONS (STRUCTURE LESS THAN 50 YRS. OLD)

- HISTORIC STRUCTURE THAT HAS BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED.

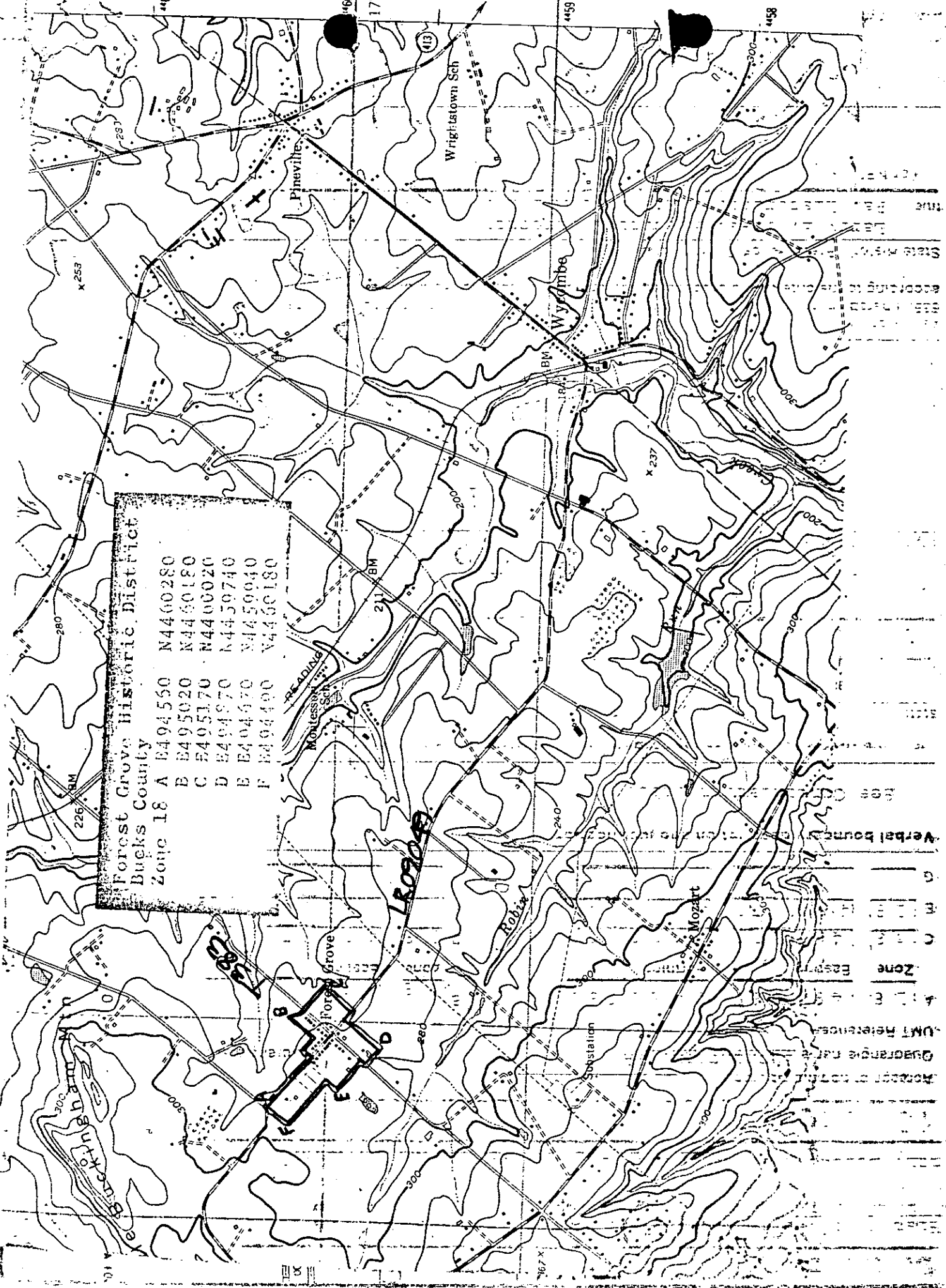
NOTE: SEE SURVEY FORM FOR STRUCTURE SHAPE.

- District Boundaries

FOREST GROVE VILLAGE

SCALE: 1"=200'
 COMPILED FROM TOWNSHIP
 TAX PARCEL MAP OF 17800'

Forest Grove Historic District
 Bucks County
 Zone 18 A E494550 N4460280
 B E495020 N4460180
 C E495170 N4400020
 D E494970 N4459740
 E E404670 N4459040
 F E494490 N4460180



Verbal boundary description
 Zone
 Easement
 C
 B
 A
 G
 UMT Reference
 Quotations
 Record of plat