

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elmwood Park Historic District  
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Dellwood Street, Hawthorne Road NA not for publication  
city, town Bethlehem NA vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Northampton code 095 zip code 18018

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>70</u>	<u>11</u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>70</u>	<u>11</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet

Brent Glass 3/17/88  
Signature of certifying official Date

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Michael Byrne Entered in the 4/21/88  
National Register

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
 Domestic/Single Dwellings  
 Domestic/Multiple Dwellings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
 Domestic/Single Dwellings  
 Domestic/Multiple Dwellings

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
 (enter categories from instructions)  
 Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)  
 foundation Concrete  
 walls Wood  
 Stucco  
 roof Asphalt  
 other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Elmwood Park is an early-20th century suburban, working class, residential development constructed chiefly of clapboard, brick and stucco on a plain six blocks northeast of Bethlehem's midtown section. It was conceived as a cohesive unit tied together by material, scale, and style. Houses in this proposed district are one-and-one-half- or two-story vernacular dwellings accented with Colonial Revival features. Although some of them have been individualized with new roofs and siding, the district retains its cohesiveness with moderate integrity.

Although close to downtown, the district has remained out of the mainstream of traffic. It is separated from two main arterial routes (Pembroke Road and Broad Street) by later commercial development, and its oval street pattern discourages through traffic. The houses turn their backs on outside traffic by facing to the center of the development. Elmwood Park originally was planned to consist of 235 lots arranged around a large oval street pattern and a central playground which serves as the focus of the neighborhood. The development suggests a planner's romanticized conception of a colonial village, a collection of small, unified dwellings showing Colonial Revival influence clustered around a central playground, the modern equivalent of a village "common." The houses usually stand right on or within 10 feet of the sidewalk line and are erected on lots as narrow as 15 feet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     NA     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1917-1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Elmwood Park is an architecturally significant residential district in Bethlehem, one that represented a new approach to housing development in the city. Prior to the construction of Elmwood Park, Bethlehem housing was erected piecemeal in a variety of materials, scales, and styles, often within the same block. Elmwood Park is the first large, private suburban residential project in Bethlehem created consistent in construction, material, scale, and style. As such, it marks the beginning of large-scale, unified housing developments in Bethlehem and its suburbs. It is the first expression of a trend toward such projects that began in Eastern Pennsylvania in the late 19th century.

Elmwood Park was built in 1917 as part of the residential expansion needed to house workers of the growing Bethlehem Steel Company. The company, which produced arms during World War I, increased its work force from 11,000 in 1914 to 28,000 in 1917. In response to the resulting housing demand, Bethlehem area developers usually bought several lots or a block along the established street grid. Much of South Bethlehem and portions of North and West Bethlehem are covered with duplexes and row houses constructed in this fashion. Various developers built houses of different types and styles and sizes on adjoining blocks, creating inconsistent block patterns.

Elmwood Park is different. The Pittsburgh developers Wood and Hawthorne bought a 13-acre site for their project, larger than the typical development site. They organized Elmwood Park on an oval street pattern, surrounding a central playground, creating the modern equivalent of a colonial village with its public green.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bethlehem Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 14.9

UTM References

A 118 4690000 4497130  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 118 4691700 4496750

B 118 4691400 4497130  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 118 4689700 4496760

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James G. Whildin Jr., Architect/Philip Michael Clark

organization Spillman Farmer Architects/PHMC date December 1, 1987

street & number 1 Bethlehem Plaza/State Museum telephone 215-865-2621/717-783-9922

city or town Bethlehem/Harrisburg state PA zip code 18018/17108

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Elmwood Park Historic District

Section number 7 Page 2

---

Elmwood

The 68 contributing houses were built from 1917 through 1920, most commonly of brick, clapboard or stucco. They include two-story apartment buildings, some with seven residences and some with six; two-story "butterfly units" (triple apartments wrapping around the corners of street intersections); one-and-one-half- and two-story double residences, and single dwellings. A one-story playground building and a two-story bar/restaurant are the only non-residential contributing buildings. Gable roof ridges typically are parallel to the street, and front porches, either attached or part of the mass of the house, extend across most Elmwood Park house fronts. Most houses have two bays. Side yards are minimal, giving the effect of a continuous street facade.

Elmwood Park's original Colonial Revival-detailed architecture features slate, gabled roofs with gabled or shed-roof dormers. Gables often have end chimneys. Flush frieze boards and soffitted eaves with ogee moldings decorate cornices. Facades are symmetrical with six-over-six windows and porches fitted with square triple-columned corner posts and connecting lattice. Windows have six panes over six.

The buildings are constructed in six forms: two kinds of single residences, two kinds of doubles, one variety of triple units and one form of apartment buildings.

The double units, the most common form of residence in the district, occur in two basic forms. One form is a two-story brick house with gable roof ridge parallel to the street. Chimneys flank the roof at the gables and garrets have quarter fan louvers. Front porches extend the width of most of these houses. Some of the houses have pentaaves and center porches and a few have both. Porch roofs slope toward the street and are supported by columns. The walls are brick, laid in running bond, but a few exceptions are made in clapboard or stucco. A variant form is a two-story unit with a two-story side gabled wing.

The second double unit version is built to appear to be one story high, with large roof and dormer windows concealing a full second floor. The roofs are either gable or gambrel, and have shed-roof or gabled dormers. A front porch, frequently enclosed, is incorporated into the mass of each unit. The gambrel roof models often have brick arch porch roof supports. Instead of the usual triple wooden posts, porches on these houses have single, 18-inch-round columns.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Elmwood Park Historic District  
Section number 7 Page 3

---

### Elmwood

The triple units are in "butterfly" pattern. The central block faces a street intersection diagonally with two side sections set parallel to the intersecting streets. The center portion has a central gable with semi-circular fanlight and Classical/Colonial Revival eaves trim with returns. A central door in the gable face has columned pilasters and matching overdoor. Two windows pierce both the first and second floors and do not align. The side extensions join the middle block along angled walls. Side unit entry doors abut the central portion of the building and originally included inset porches, most of which now are enclosed. The main facades of the side units include fluted pilasters and architrave trim with single and double windows symmetrically arranged.

The apartment buildings are symmetrical. Both end units are gabled, set perpendicular to the street, while interior units are topped with gable roofs parallel to the street. Interior blocks have one shed roof dormer each and triple-columned porches. Each unit has two bays of six-over-six windows and an offset front door. The walls are stuccoed or brick laid in running bond. End units feature front porch insets under the second floors. The porches are trimmed with square columns. Six-over-six windows pierce the walls over the porches and a single rectangular window is placed in each gable.

The single residences appear in two forms. The one-and-one-half-story variety is a three-bay cottage with a central door, dormers on a gable roof and side porches. The two-story variety has a gable roof and end chimneys. This type has three bays, a central door and a side porch. Second floor windows are half dormers. One variant includes an overhanging second floor.

The 11 non-contributing buildings are later. They consist of seven single and four double houses built between 1950 and 1986. The single-family houses usually are of one- or one-and-one-half-story Ranch or Cape Cod style. Constructed on several of the original-plan lots, these low-slung houses are more widely spaced than original Elmwood Park buildings, contrasting both in height and distribution density with the first units. Most of the non-contributing double residences are two-story buildings erected on the original, narrow lots. The newer buildings typically have two bays and front porches and are similar in mass to the original Elmwood Park houses. Modern siding, window materials, size, and lower roof slopes differentiate the non-contributing from the contributing buildings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Elmwood Park Historic District  
Section number 7 Page 4

---

### Elmwood

Contributing buildings maintain moderate integrity. The planned unity of Elmwood Park is declining, however, as houses are individualized. Many of the multiple houses have been sided, with different colors of aluminum on adjoining units; some have been stuccoed, while others retain the original surfaces. Porches have been enclosed or their columns replaced with iron or aluminum. Some slate roofs remain, but an increasing number of them has been replaced with roofing materials in a variety of colors. Many units have aluminum-clad gables, fascia, soffits and dormers. Nonetheless, the houses retain their planned mass, and new construction is not sufficiently out of scale to destroy the plan. Roughly 60 per cent of original dormers, porches, windows and surfaces remain. The Colonial Revival style and detailing, bay arrangement, and window and chimney design still unite the district.

Elmwood Park was designed as a cohesive, distinct neighborhood, unified by style, materials and color. Enough of that unity remains, despite later construction and updating of original buildings, to make Elmwood Park a distinctive Bethlehem neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Elmwood Park Historic District

Section number 8 Page 2

## Elmwood

The design and construction of Elmwood Park houses reinforces the distinct character of the neighborhood. Although single, double, triple and row units were constructed in Elmwood Park, mass and scale generally are uniform, as are first-floor levels, floor-to-ceiling heights, roof slopes and roof materials. A variety of materials is used in Elmwood Park to avoid monotony, but are repeated throughout the neighborhood to preserve continuity. Porches take different forms but those forms also are repeated. Common details appear throughout the district. Multi-paned windows are common, symmetrically arranged. Attic fanlights occur on single, double, triple, and row units. Common eaves material and cornice patterns are used. Large, round columns are fitted to both single and double houses.

Houses were built upon 158 of the 235 lots on the original plan. Dodson Realty of Bethlehem marketed Elmwood Park, and all the original houses there were sold by 1920. Some empty lots were sold through 1938, and after World War II single Ranch-style or bilevel houses were built on two or more of those lots.

Elmwood Park represents a significant shift in the evolution of Bethlehem housing. From the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, after the dissolution of the original Moravian community in 1844, housing in the city expanded from the Moravian core in piecemeal fashion. Residences on different blocks, or frequently within blocks, were erected at various times in different materials, scales and styles. For instance, in the proposed Central Bethlehem Historic District Boundary Increase, large, high-style residences were built along East Market Street. Smaller, vernacular, detached houses or row houses were interspersed among them. Fountain Hill, which was developed for middle- and upper-level managers, contains houses built in a variety of materials and styles.

Elmwood Park is the first of a series of large-scale, unified housing developments built in the Bethlehem area. Pembroke Village was created northeast of Elmwood Park during 1918 as a similarly styled working-class development. Although Pembroke Village was planned by the U.S. government while Elmwood Park was a private project, it has various types of multi-unit buildings united by a common use of brick, one-and-one-half-story scale, and a vernacular appearance, much like Elmwood Park. Other suburban developments sprawled north of Bethlehem during the 1920s and, especially, after World War II. These suburban developments feature the same detached building designs set in long rows on the same-sized lots. They are characterized by unified design and layout, similar massing and ornamentation,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Elmwood Park Historic District

Section number 8 Page 3

---

### Elmwood

Elmwood Park also is a local example of this large-scale, tract housing trend which could be seen in several Pennsylvanian cities by the early 20th century. In eastern Pennsylvania such developments began most notably at the end of the 19th century in suburban Philadelphia. As railroad and trolley lines stretched from Philadelphia into surrounding counties, developers erected extensive neighborhoods of common construction, scale, and style, many for middle-and upper-class residents. Lansdowne, for instance, was created in Delaware County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a middle-class neighborhood of two-and one-half-story, Queen Anne houses. It was added to the National Register in 1987. Other projects were designed for working-class inhabitants. In Bristol, Bucks County, the Jefferson Land Association Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1987, was established for World War I workers. Front columned porches and bay windows are repeated throughout the blocks of this neighborhood. In eastern Pennsylvania this trend of unified, large-scale construction reached its logical conclusion in the state's first Levittown, built immediately after World War II near Bristol. The stamp of cookie-cutter designed houses has since appeared throughout the suburbs of eastern Pennsylvania.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ELMWOOD PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Section number 9 Page 2

---

### ELMWOOD PARK - BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Adams, Nicholas, The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, vol. CVIII #1 "The United States' Housing Corporation's Munitions Worker Suburb in Bethlehem, PA and its Architectural Context".
2. City of Bethlehem, Building Department Subdivision Maps. 10 E. Church Street, Bethlehem, PA.
3. Cotter, Arundel, The Story of Bethlehem Steel, New York: The Moody Magazine and Book Co. 1916.
4. Fishman, Robert, Urban Utopias in the Twentieth Century - Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier, Basic Books, Inc. New York. 1977.
5. Messen, Robert, Steel Titan - The Life of Charles M. Schwab, New York: Oxford University Press, 1975.
6. Reps, John W., The Making of Urban America - A History of City Planning in the United States, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 1965.
7. Vadasz, T., The History of an Industrial Community: Bethlehem, PA. 1741-1920. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms International, 1925.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

---

Elmwood Park Historic District  
Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the west side of Dellwood Street 208.72 feet from the north corner of Elm and Dellwood streets, thence northwest approximately 103 feet to a point on the south side of Carson Street, thence northeast approximately 50 feet along Carson Street, then north approximately 50 feet along Carson Street, then crossing Carson Street proceeding west 124 feet along the north side of an alley to the northeast corner of said alley and Harris Street, then north along the east side curb line of Elm Street approximately 124 feet to a point at the southeast corner of Harris Street, thence east along the south side of Harris Street 124 feet to a point on the east side of Carson Street, thence north along the east side of Carson Street 141 feet to a point on the north side of East Garrison Street. Thence east six feet along the north side of East Garrison Street to a point on the east side of Carson Street, thence north along the east side of Carson Street 714 feet to a point, thence east 113.45 feet to a point on the north side of Goepp Circle, thence along an arc following the north side of Goepp Circle approximately 180 feet, thence east 113.45 feet to a point on the west side of Woodruff Street.

Thence south 1168.4 feet along the west side of Woodruff Street to a point at the northeast corner of Woodruff and North streets, thence east along the north side of North Street 129.84 feet to a point on the west side of Hawthorne Road, thence south along the west side of Hawthorne Road approximately 60 feet to a point at the northwest corner of Hawthorne Road and Park Place, thence west approximately 203 feet along the north side of Park Place, thence south 120 feet to the southeast corner of property at 528 Park Place, then west approximately 165 feet to a point on the south side of Dellwood Street, thence northeast along the east side of Dellwood Street approximately 50 feet, thence northwest 30 feet to the point of beginning,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Elmwood Park Historic District

Section number 10 Page 3

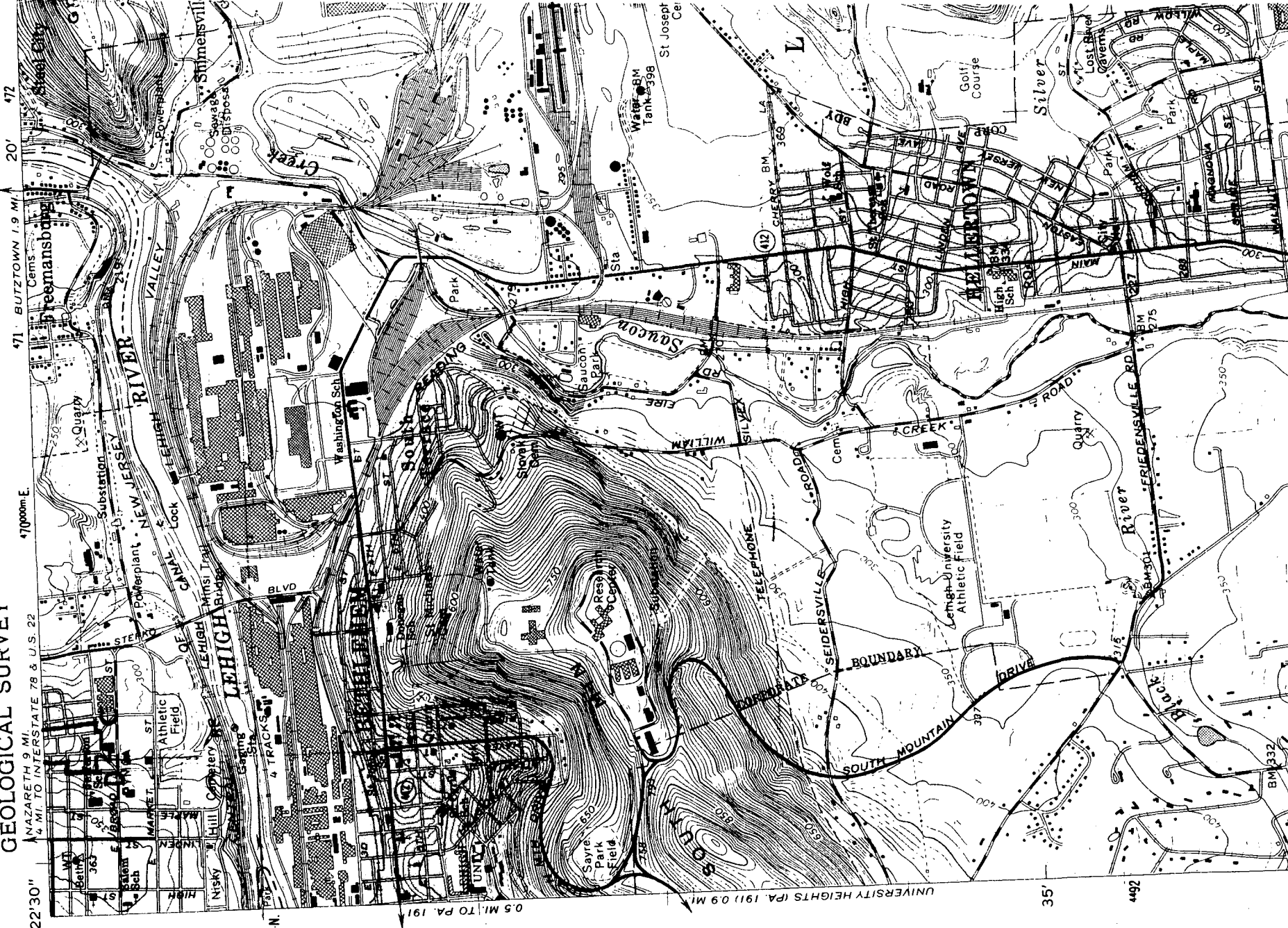
---

## Elmwood Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all buildings erected between 1917 and 1920 as part of the original Elmwood Park development. Those buildings excluded outside the boundary were not built as part of this development and vary in appearance, styling or scale from the nominated buildings.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5985 III NW  
(CATASAUQUA)



75° 22' 30"  
40° 37' 30"

NAZARETH 9 MI.  
4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 78 & U.S. 22

0.5 MI. TO PA. 191

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS (PA. 1911) 0.9 MI.

471 BUTZTOWN 1.9 MI.

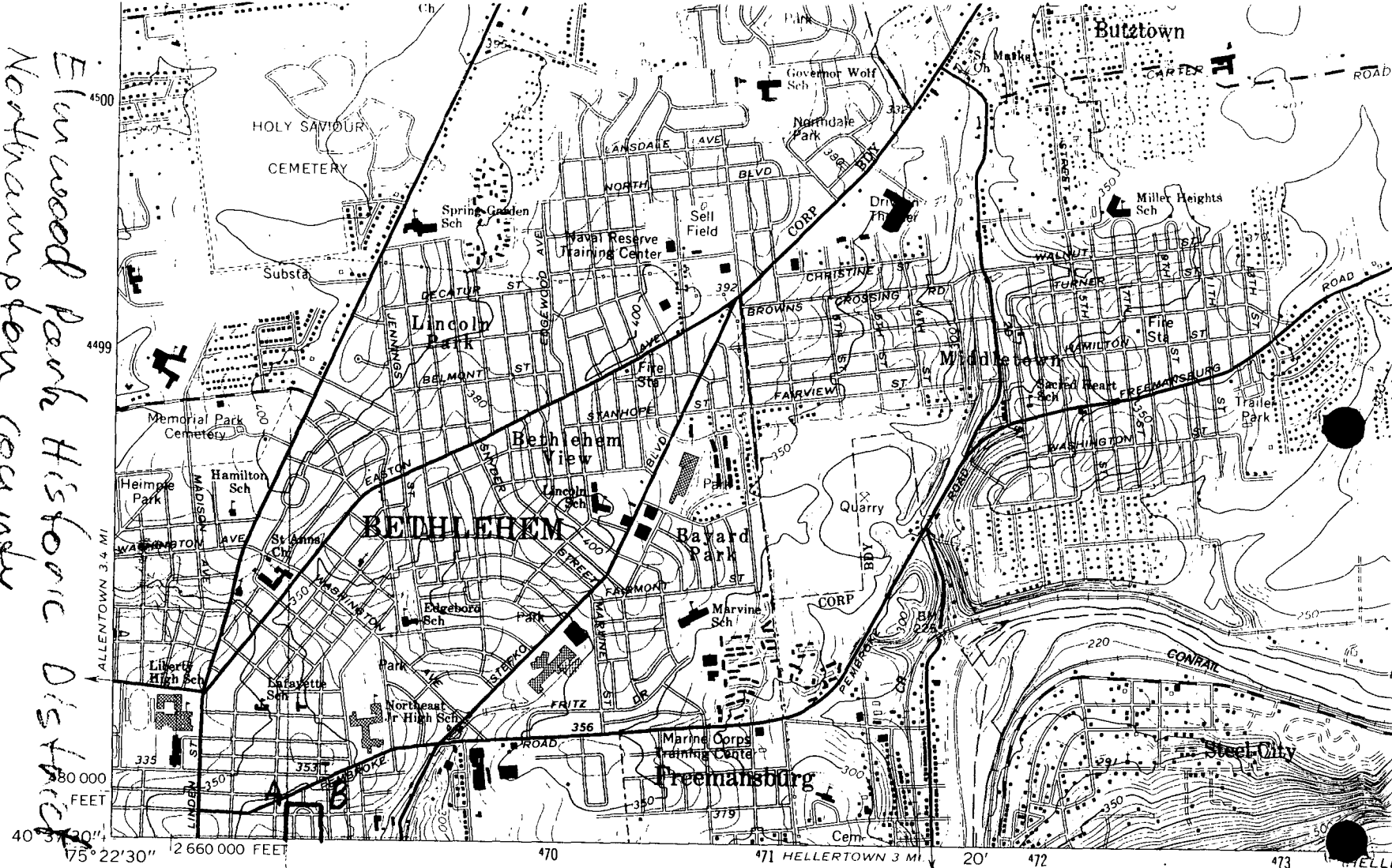
47000m E.

496000m N.

Elanwood Park Historic District  
Northampton County  
Zone 18 - Nazareth + Hellertown Roads  
1 242000 N4497130

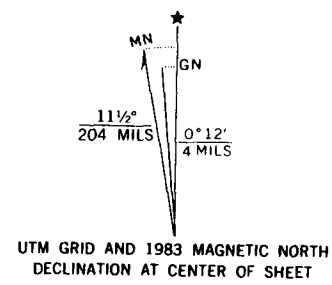
A E 469000 N 4497130  
 B E 469140 N 4497130  
 C E 469170 N 4496750  
 D E 468970 N 4496760

Elmwood Park Historic District  
 Northampton County  
 Zone 15 - Nazareth + Hellertown Quads

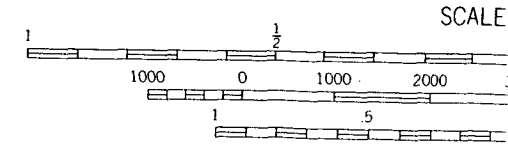


ALLENTOWN EAST  
 5965 III SW

**Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey**  
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964  
 Polyconic Projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 31 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1983  
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS