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1109 and 1212 Abington Road (Resource Nos. 18, 21, 25, and 42, respectively; Photos 7, 20).

The American Foursquare, more of a house type than architectural style, is represented in the Waverly Historic District in the c. 1920 properties at 205 and 207 Beech Street and 1214 Abington Road (Resource Nos. 15, 16, and 41, respectively; Photo 8).

The largest single example of domestic architecture in the district is "Goodstay," the now-Chateausque-style estate property at 109 Academy Street (Resource No. 82; Photo 24). Finished in stucco and with the characteristic steeply-pitched and dormered Chateausque-style roof, the property was first erected as a Mediterranean Revival home and was remodeled to its present appearance in the 1920s. It anchors a large estate which is the largest single tract in the district.

Nearly all of Waverly's historic commercial buildings, including two substantial hotels (Fig. 3), were lost during the second decade of the twentieth century, due first to a fire and soon thereafter to the 1919 construction of the Waverly Community House (Resource No. 1), which is located in the heart of the village. Most commercial architecture was of wood construction, two stories in height, and had fallen into disrepair after the failure of several local industries. One important c. 1830 historic commercial building which survived is at 1201 Abington Road (Resource No. 27; Photo 2, Fig. 2). It is two stories in height with an original Greek Revival-style storefront whose bay spacing on the facade is defined by stone pilasters. An early section on the south side, including a second-story porch, has been removed (Fig. 2).

Institutional design in Waverly includes three historic church buildings, the 1869 Free Methodist Church at 101 Carbondale Road (originally built as the Presbyterian Church but sold to the Free Methodist congregation in 1892; Resource No. 95), the Methodist Church at 105 Church Street (Resource No. 4), and the 1849 First Baptist Church at 1216 Abington

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Road (Resource No. 40; Fig. 3) ; the first two of the churches two are of the Gothic Revival style, while the third is of the Romanesque Revival. All three are of wood construction with gable roofs and towers of varying scale and complexity. Waverly's 1854 African Methodist Episcopal Church at 129 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 104; Photo 26; Fig. 5), historically referred to as the "Negro Church," was converted into a residence in 1926 and has been altered to the extent that it fails to retain historic architectural integrity and is a noncontributing feature in the district.

The "centerpiece" of the district is the Waverly Community House (Resource No. 1; Photo 1; Fig. 6) built in two stages (1919 and 1930). It is of Dutch Colonial Revival-style architecture executed in Flemish bond brick and consists of a symmetrical center wing (the original section) flanked by two matching 1930-1931 wings. The building is gambrel-roofed with dormers and a highly detailed cupola rises at the center of the original wing. Among other uses, the facility includes a community gymnasium, the town library, and the post office.

All remnants of Waverly's historic industrial heritage--small though it was and including a foundry and brick plant--are lost. The only property that harkens back to any manufacturing heyday is the c. 1880 E. S. Calkins Blacksmith Shop on Abington Road (Resource No. 36; Photo 28; Fig. 7). Built of stone--and the only building in the district so constructed--it has a gable roof and gable-end orientation to Abington Road and retains both its original exterior surface finishes and fenestration.

Interspersed among the homes in the Waverly Historic District are a garages, undistinguished dependencies, and barns and carriage houses. All of these are of wood construction and most are gable-roofed. Examples of these properties include those associated with the houses at 186 Academy Street and 104 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 88 and 119, respectively).

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Summarizing, the Waverly Historic District possesses irrefutable architectural integrity and retains the character of a historic nineteenth-century rural village on the outskirts of metropolitan Scranton, Pennsylvania, containing one hundred thirty-one properties, primarily residential in character and of wood construction.

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8. Significance

The Waverly Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion C for *architecture*, containing a diversity of primarily residential representatives of several of the architectural styles which were popular in America during the period of settlement, growth, and maturity of the community. The period of significance begins in 1828, corresponding to the date of construction of the earliest of the district's buildings (the Dr. A. P. Bedford House, 1116 Abington Road; Resource No. 45) and ends c. 1940, the date of construction of the latest of the district's historic buildings (603 Clinton Street; Resource No. 63, and 113 School Street; Resource No. 23), by which time the district had assumed the essential appearance which it retains. The district's significance is supported by its character as a nineteenth-century village of generally modestly-scaled domestic architecture which has been minimally altered with the passage of time and is little impacted by contemporary development.

With respect to Criterion C, the Waverly Historic District is significant for its concentration of architecturally-notable properties executed in a variety of the styles popular throughout the period of significance. While the Greek Revival style is the most prevalent in the district, the nominated area also includes one 1830 Federal-style school house (Fig. 8-10), churches of the Romanesque and Gothic Revival style, one Queen Anne-style home, properties executed in the Colonial Revival style (including Dutch Colonial Revival), several Arts-and-Crafts-style Bungalows, and one Chateausque estate property. The Italianate and Eastlake styles are represented by the presence of architectural details (including bracketed eaves, frontispiece entrances, and verandas) applied to earlier homes. Specific examples of each of these appear in the Section 7 narrative of the nomination documents and are described in the Resource Inventory. The Waverly Historic District clearly retains integrity sufficient to merit its listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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The area which would become Waverly was originally part of the lands in northern Pennsylvania claimed by the State of Connecticut. Despite attempts to create a new state between New York and Pennsylvania with its capitol at Wilkes-Barre, the Pennsylvania county of Luzerne was erected from portions of Northampton County in 1786. Meandering across part of the new county was a Native American trail leading from the Susquehanna River to the Delaware River. This trail had several branches, one of which, known as the Warrior's Path, led through the wilderness that would become Waverly. In 1790, surveyors from Rhode Island were hired to survey some of the lands claimed by Connecticut in this part of northeastern Pennsylvania. This survey became known as the Ebbington survey, after the Warwick, Rhode Island land agent, Col. Ebbington, under whom the claims had been surveyed. The first settlers named a new township after Ebbington but when they discovered that the deeds issued by Ebbington were worthless, they changed the name of the township to Abington, after a town in Wyndham County, Connecticut. In 1806 Abington Township was officially established and in 1811 the post office known as "Old Abington" was established, the third oldest in the county. The post office was initially located at the home of Elder John Miller (not extant), a Waverly minister for decades, and in 1832 was moved to the home of Dr. A. P. Bedford at 1116 Abington Road (Resource No. 45).

A leading factor in the settlement and early growth of Waverly--by then known as Abington Center--was the chartering of the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike, which followed the Warrior's Path through the forest on present-day Abington Road (known also historically as Main Street; Fig. 2, 3). The turnpike was chartered by the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1818, work began in 1820, and the road was completed in 1824. The earliest home in Abington Center was built in 1820 by John Flannagan at the corner of the Turnpike and Carbondale Road. It was followed in 1822 by that of Dr. William Nicholls at the corner of the Turnpike and what later was opened as Academy Street, and in 1828 by George Parker's

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house/inn below Carbondale Road on the 'pike.³ These first homes are not extant. Dr. William Nicholls' stay in Abington Center was short lived; following his untimely death, a new doctor came the settlement, Andrew Phelps Bedford. A graduate of Yale University, Dr. Bedford (1804-1889) built the fourth home in Abington Center, the 1828 Greek Revival-style home at 1116 Abington Road (Resource No. 45), which is the oldest extant property in the district. A. P. Bedford became a leading force in the early history of the community, advocating first the creation of a railroad through Abington Center, which he felt was not growing proportionately to its surrounding neighbors including the group of cabins at Slocum Hollow (now Scranton).

Early in the history of the settlement a road was opened eastward from the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike to Carbondale; it survives in Waverly as Carbondale Road. In 1843 the road to Dalton was opened and was named Clinton Street (Fig. 1), since it also led to Factoryville in Clinton Township, Wyoming County. Academy Street was opened from the Turnpike in 1844, leading to the then-new academy at the top of the hill. Madison Road (later Madison Lane) led from the academy to Carbondale Road, and in 1844 Church and Beech Streets were opened. Within the community, the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike was initially re-named Main Street; it is now known as Abington Road.

The institutional growth and maturity of Abington Center began with the establishment of several churches, most of which still remain within the historic district. The First Baptist Church was organized in 1802, followed considerably later by the Methodist Episcopal (1832), the Presbyterian (1850), the African Methodist Episcopal (1854), and the Free Methodists (1872). All of these congregations erected houses of worship which became both social centers and places of worship for their respective parishioners. The Presbyterian congregation

³Parker's Inn was a three-story central-passage building which became a regular stagecoach stop on the Turnpike, operating under the sign, "Refreshment for Man and Horse." The building survived into the early twentieth century. In its later years it was known as the Slocum house and was replaced c. 1916 by the home of William E. Smith (Resource No. 106)

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sold their 1869 church to the Free Methodists in 1892 and the 1854 A. M. E. Church (Resource No. 104) has been altered considerably and is non-contributing to the character of the district.

Secular growth in the community was vested in several fraternal organizations which were organized early in the history of the community. Among these were the Odd Fellows, the Masons, the Good Templar Lodge, and the Patriotic Sons of America. Each of these groups met in second-story quarters in a store building on Main Street erected in 1848 by John Stone, but universally known as the Bliss Building (Fig. 11). It was demolished in 1919 along with ten other buildings, to make way for the construction of the Waverly Community House.

Waverly's first school was taught by Elder John Miller, who, in addition to teaching the first class of seven boys and one girl from his log cabin home (not extant), was also a prominent local pastor and is commemorated on a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker on Abington Road. Early education remained in private homes until 1830, when the village's first schoolhouse was erected (Resource No. 43; Photo 5; Fig. 8, 9, 10). It served as a public school until 1869 and since 1884 has been a private dwelling. In 1836 one of northeastern Pennsylvania's earliest institutions of higher learning was established in Abington Center when classes were offered in a Main Street home under the tutelage of Gilbert S. Bailey. In 1844 a permanent home for the institution (Fig. 12) was erected atop the hill on the east side of the village, accessed by the newly-opened and -named Academy Street. The Madison Academy operated until 1878 when it closed. The building became a public school until 1897 when the Waverly Public School was erected behind the old academy building and the 1844 educational landmark was razed. The 1897 school was used until the 1920s when a new building was erected outside the boundaries of the nominated area; the site of the Academy and of the 1897 Waverly School is occupied by a c. 1925 Colonial Revival-style residence and its dependencies.

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The early commercial district of Abington Center was located on the Turnpike (now Abington Road), in the area between present-day Clinton and Church Streets (Fig. 1, 3, 11). The earliest store was built at what would become the northwest corner of the Pike and Clinton Street, when the latter road was opened in the 1840s. About 1850 this store was replaced by a brick building which still anchors that corner (Resource No. 27; Photo No. 2; Fig. 2). The balance of the commercial area, characterized primarily by two-story Greek Revival-style commercial buildings (Fig. 3), was immediately south on the Turnpike and was razed in 1919 to make way for the Community House (Resource No. 1).

Small-scale, pre-mechanized industries developed in Abington Center during the fourth decade of the nineteenth century. Among these were the wheel and wagon works of brothers Pardon and Edward J. Stone, the blacksmith shop of father and son Mark and Samuel Whaling, and an operation manufacturing springs for wagon tongues, also the domain of Edward Stone. Only the c. 1880 stone blacksmith shop of E. S. Calkins on Abington Road (Fig. 7; Resource No. 36) survives.

The early decades of the settlement saw Abington Center develop as a "temperance" community, complete with the large hotel on the corner of Main and Clinton Streets which had been built by several community leaders and operated "on a purely temperance basis."⁴ To control their own destiny more effectively, Abington Center leaders secured a charter for a new municipality; the date of incorporation of the new Borough is variously reported as 1853 and 1854. Since there was already a Pennsylvania borough called Abington, the name "Waverly" was chosen. Mildred Mumford's history of the community reports that the name was suggested by Louise Palmer Smith, after the novels of the same name by Sir Walter Scott, which were popular at the time.⁵ The Borough of Waverly existed from the 1850s until 1920,

⁴Mildred Mumford, *This Is Waverly*. (Waverly: Waverly Women's Club, 1954), p. 99.

⁵*Ibid.* p. 100.

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when, spurred by the cost of highway maintenance, the citizens petitioned the court to rescind the charter, returning Waverly to an unincorporated village and laying the cost of highway maintenance on the County. Waverly remains an unincorporated Abington Township village.

Although the railroad had not been completed, agriculture was developing as a major industry in the area and the 1840s saw significant growth in the community, including the construction of many of the period homes which characterize the Waverly Historic District. The neighboring settlements of Humphreyville (now Glenburn) and Bailey Hollow (Dalton) had developed around saw and grist mills and at that time Slocum Hollow (now Scranton) offered little in the way of economic advantage. Abington Center was at “the heart of the richest agricultural area in northeastern Pennsylvania.”⁶

The three decades between 1850 and 1880 marked Waverly’s “roaring heyday.”⁷ The number of people employed in farming exceeded even that at the end of World War Two. The L & W Railroad opened in 1850 and daily shipments from Waverly carried local butter, milk, and cheese to markets in New York. The population topped five hundred during these years and the community had hopes of becoming a significant agricultural capital. In addition to five churches, Waverly boasted a band room, an “opry house,” both a post office and a circulating library, a wheel and wagon factory, a brick plant, three blacksmiths, harness, saddle, and trunkmakers, a shoemaker, two barber shops, and a photographic gallery. There were also two hotels and two furniture dealers, three tailors, and five milliners.⁸

Waverly’s close association with the Underground Railroad has been understood for generations; writing in 1928, Thomas Murphy recorded, “back in pre-Civil War days aboli-

⁶Ibid., p. 132

⁷Ibid.

⁸Ibid., pp. 132-133.

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tionists in Waverly were credited with secreting away runaway Negro slaves and helping them on their way to Canada.⁹ Settled by New Englanders, it is not surprising that Waverly was an important link in the Underground Railroad of the ante-bellum days of the mid-nineteenth century. Two routes of the Railroad passed through the community. One led from Harrisburg to Wilkes-Barre, Hyde Park, and Clarks Green to Waverly and then on to Fleetville, Factoryville, and Montrose (in Susquehanna County to the northwest). The other route came from Philadelphia via the Great Bend Turnpike to Stroudsburg, then northwesterly from there to Waverly.

Not only did Waverly's citizens assist runaways to freedom, they secured a permanent place for the refugees in the community. In the wake of the growth of the Abolitionist movement after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, the first escapees passed through Waverly, soon to be joined by entire families en route to freedom in Canada. During the spring planting season and the fall harvest, they were hired as laborers by local farmers. The first permanent African-American settler in Waverly was George Keyes and by the outbreak of the Civil War in the Spring of 1861, many others, free of fear of pursuit, had settled here. Landowner John Stone sold many of the new citizens lots along Carbondale Road. Mildred Mumford noted, "He [Stone] sold the lots on easy terms and aided the Negroes in getting their little houses."¹⁰ The most intact of these modest homes is at 131 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 105).

After describing the role of Waverly in the Underground Railroad, Mumford, writing in 1954, proceeded with an imaginary monologue directed at the long-dead Abolitionist John Stone:

⁹Thomas Murphy, *Jubilee History of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania*. (Topeka: Historical Publishing Company, 1928), p. 512.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p. 112.

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It is just one hundred years, Uncle John, since the first spade went into the ground for your little slave houses on Colored Hill, in old Darky Town. Some of those houses are still standing on Carbondale Road but you would not recognize them. They have grown and beautified and prospered and progressed! They have come a long way by the route of rebuilding skill.¹¹

The African-Americans who settled Waverly and lived on Carbondale Road worked as farm laborers and domestics in the homes of the community. With the outbreak of the Civil War, the former slaves of Waverly were among the first to volunteer for service in the Union Army when President Lincoln issued his call for 50,000 men.

Waverly's African-American citizens established a local church congregation which endured for three-quarters of a century. With the first arrival of former slaves, Wanton Sherman, whose father, Abner, had been one of the Abington pioneers, established a Sunday School for the new arrivals and also acted as its superintendent. The worship service met in the 1830 "Little Schoolhouse" at 1210 Abington Road (Resource No. 43). In 1854 the African Methodist Episcopal Church (Resource No. 104; Fig. 5) was erected on Carbondale Road, in the African-American neighborhood. A one-story wood temple-form building set on a foundation of coursed rubble with a three-bay facade, worshipers met there until 1926, when the building was sold by the A. M. E. Conference. As noted in Section 7, the building has been converted for use as a residence and has been altered significantly.

The African-American community of Waverly endured for ninety-seven years. Following Emancipation and the cessation of Civil War hostilities, few new African-Americans settled in Waverly. By the early decades of the twentieth century most of the older former slaves had died and by 1920 the African-American population, once as high as seventy-five, had dwindled to twenty. The last members of the A. M. E. Church were Frank and Elisha Johnson whose

¹¹*Ibid.*