The Stroud Mansion (Stroudsburg), built in the late eighteenth century, now the home of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church (Bushkill), erected in 1833, is a well-preserved New England style meetinghouse, with box pews and unusual kerosene lamp chandeliers.
FOR well over a decade thought has been given to the creation of a national recreation area in the upper Delaware Valley. Finally, with the appropriation of funds to allow surveying of a dam site near East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, this project is assuming the shape of a reality. If executed, the plan would create a reservoir extending from East Stroudsburg to Port Jervis, New York, and establish a national recreation area on both sides of the river. In studying the development of this area the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior has been cognizant of the historic as well as the natural resources of the region. In 1963 the Service contracted with the Lehigh University History Department to conduct a historic survey of buildings, fortifications, and other sites in the area, which has been tentatively designated “The Tocks Island National Recreation Area.” Since these historic resources may be of interest to many Pennsylvanians and to local historical organizations, this essay is submitted as a summary report of the survey which was made. It describes the work that was done, some of the most important sites in the area, and some of the historical work which needs doing.

The general aim of the study was to “ascertain and evaluate” the history of the upper Delaware Basin in order “to contribute to long-range comprehensive park and recreation area studies.”

*Dr. Cary is head of the Department of History at Lehigh University. This article is based on an historic survey which was conducted for the United States Park Service, but was written after the research contract was completed. Though the Park Service was most helpful in the Lehigh survey, it is not connected in any way with this article, and the conclusions here should not be taken to represent the views of either the Service or of anyone in it. A companion article, describing sites on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River, is being published in the April, 1965, issue of the New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings.
Five things were viewed as being necessary to such a contribution:

1. A map showing the location of historic buildings and sites.
2. A description of the physical characteristics of these historic remains, with an evaluation of their historic importance.
3. A brief account of the history of the region, which would place developments there within the framework of the history of the Middle Atlantic states.
4. An annotated list of sources of information on the area's history.
5. A proposal for future research in the history of the area.

John Cary, head of the Lehigh History Department, was appointed director of the project and was assisted by a team of five part-time research workers. It was decided that, while the survey should emphasize the immediate area on each side of the Delaware River that would be included within the proposed park boundaries, it would be unwise to limit the survey to that region. Thus, sites in towns as distant from each other as Hope, New Jersey, and Honesdale, Pennsylvania, were examined. Most of the Pennsylvania sites are in Monroe and Pike Counties, but some Northampton and Wayne county sites were included. On a smaller scale, the Park Service will eventually face the same problem encountered in the development of the conservation projects in the Nile River Valley: physically and financially, will it be possible to remove historic remains that are likely to be inundated, or must they be consigned to a watery grave? Aside from providing some aid in evaluating sites which might be inundated, the survey was designed to aid in making the most effective use of historic sites in the general region, both for the people of the area and prospective visitors to it.

The preservation and development of such sites can range from the establishment of a historic home as a house-museum, to the erection of a historic marker, to the inclusion of the site in a visitor's brochure or guidebook. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and some local societies have already done much in this field, but a great deal remains to be accomplished. The historical agencies of both the United States Government and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have established rigorous standards by which a historic site is desig-
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rated of state or national significance and eligible for publicly-supported maintenance. These standards mean that many sites that deserve preservation must be preserved through private rather than public action and support. The Lehigh research team made evaluations of the historic significance of the sites in the Tocks area and recommendations concerning them, but these were tentative only. They were based upon a wide and preliminary survey of the region, the intent of which was to enable the historians of the National Park Service to study the sites in greater depth and arrive at final judgments of them.

In general the area between East Stroudsburg and Port Jervis exhibits a high degree of site preservation, with the New Jersey side having a better record in this respect than the Pennsylvania counties. Homes, churches, and inns have been generally well-preserved; forts, mills, and some other types of remains have fared less well. This preservation has been due to a respect for such remains on the part of many people in the area and the essential ruralness of the region, which has protected it from many of the destructive forces of twentieth-century life. The preservation has been through continued use of the buildings as homes, places of worship, and the like, rather than by retaining such buildings in their original state as museums. This has both made the preservation financially possible and resulted in a loss of historic integrity in most of these structures. Changes in living patterns have required alterations in the buildings, though these have been much less extensive than might be expected. Thus, for example, original plank floors have been replaced, but the symmetry of the houses has seldom been destroyed by the punching of "picture windows" into walls.

What has been preserved in the region tends to be old, rather than historic, and to be stylistically representative, rather than architecturally unique. There are few sites which have such important historic associations as to be classified as nationally significant. There are more sites which may have such important associations with state history as to be worthy of designation by state historical markers or preservation as state historic properties. Most of the sites, however, are of interest only in local history; this, of course, does not imply that they are unimportant or unworthy of preservation. Architecturally, there are
some fine examples of early stone architecture in good condition, but this is equally true of many other Pennsylvania counties.

The present patterns in historic preservation and in visitor interest are away from single historic buildings and toward "town museums." This trend is evident in Colonial Williamsburg, Mystic Seaport, the Independence Historical Park in Philadelphia, and many other carefully restored areas. In the report made to the National Park Service, buildings and other remains were treated individually, but there are possibilities for the establishment of such larger projects in the Tocks Island area. On the New Jersey side, the village of Hope has a large number of handsome Moravian buildings extant which would make the preservation and restoration of the early community quite feasible. In Pennsylvania, Kellersville—located west of Stroudsburg and just south of Snydersville—has a building designed as the first courthouse of Monroe County (1815), a saw-mill which predates 1787, an early general store, and several stone houses, including those of the storekeeper and miller.

More than 175 buildings and other sites in Pennsylvania were listed in the report to the National Park Service; here only a few representative ones are discussed. South of the boundary of the proposed park are the sites of the houses of David Brainerd, the famous Presbyterian missionary (off U. S. 611 near Martin's Creek), and of Edward Marshall, measurer of the Walking Purchase (near the southern edge of Portland). No remains of either building are extant, but the sites are marked by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

A few miles farther north is Delaware Water Gap, one of the earliest of Pocono Mountain resort areas, which was made famous in the post-Civil War period by a book by Luke Brodhead. The Kittatinny House and Water Gap House once stood here, but of the old hotels only the Glenwood (1855) remains. A large part of the modern development of the Pocono region is owing to the resort industry, but much of the history of it has been lost. However, portions of two very early inns are incorporated in Paradise Inn and Swiftwater Inn, both of which are located northwest of Stroudsburg. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, both of these boarding houses were meccas for theatrical and literary people. Joseph Jefferson, Mrs. Drew the elder (mother of
Georgia Drew Barrymore), Dr. Henry Van Dyke, and others stayed at these resorts.

Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg have few historic buildings, but there are several important sites here. The site of the home of Daniel Brodhead, who settled here about 1738, is identified by a marker in East Stroudsburg. The Brown House (NE corner of East Brown and Braeside) is said to go back to 1776, and is a good, well-preserved example of late eighteenth-century architecture. A two-and-one-half story, stone and stucco building, it has sixteen rooms, eight fireplaces, chestnut beams, and two-and-one-half- to three-inch plank floors.

In neighboring Stroudsburg the Stroud Mansion is equally well-preserved. Built in the last decade of the eighteenth century, it has twelve main rooms, each with a fireplace, hand-carved moldings, pegged beams, and a stone chimney about fifteen feet wide. Stroudsburg is also the site of two early fortifications—Fort Hamilton, which was one of the string of forts erected in 1756 under Benjamin Franklin’s direction, and Fort Penn, a rallying point for one part of the Sullivan expedition. At Main and Second Streets, the Dansbury Mission of the Moravians once stood, and the early Moravian Cemetery there has the graves of Jacob Stroud and other early settlers. One of the characteristics of historic preservation work for many years was a tendency to preserve only very early buildings and only buildings of certain types. Recently, there has been a growing recognition of the need to preserve nineteenth—as well as eighteenth—century remains, and to preserve breweries and horse stables as well as houses and churches. If there is now someone who believes that a mid-nineteenth-century jail merits preservation, they might do well to study the Monroe County jail in Stroudsburg. An extraordinarily handsome building for this period (1865), it is in fine condition with no alterations except the addition of an exercise yard.

Some of the earliest church sites and some of the prettiest church buildings of the Tocks region are located in Monroe County. At Shawnee-on-the-Delaware is the site of the Smithfield Dutch Reformed Church, one of the four churches established along the

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Footnote: Fort Norris, another of the forts of 1756, was at Kresgeville and is located by two historic markers; no remains of it have been found. Fort Koshaw, south of Bushkill Creek in Pike County, was erected with the blessings of Franklin, but was not one of the forts planned by the province.
Old Mill (Bushkill) is one of the few extant gristmills within the proposed Tocks Island park.

upper Delaware in 1737; nothing remains above ground of the building and archaeological work would be necessary to determine whether or not its foundations could be traced. West of here, about two miles south of Bushkill on U. S. 209, is the Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church. Erected in 1833, it is a fine example of a “New England style,” white frame church, with box pews, lantern chandelier, early handblown glass windows, and early communion ware. In Cherry Valley, west of Delaware Water Gap, is Keller’s Reformed Church (1828), one of the best-preserved small stone buildings in the region, and a building of exceptionally fine design. At Gilbert is the site of an Indian town and Moravian mission station, Wechquetank, which was visited by Bishop Spangenberg and David Zeisberger. Menilogameka, another Moravian mission which was visited by Count Zinzendorf in 1742 when it was an Indian village, was located at Kunkletown.
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Dutch Reformed Church (Dingman’s Ferry), built about 1850, is a rare example of classic revival architecture in the Upper Delaware Valley.

The Shawnee area seems to have been the first settled part of what is now Monroe County. If there were Europeans in this area in the seventeenth century, nothing now remains of their life on the Pennsylvania side, but a remnant of the house of Nicholas De Puy, who settled here about 1725, is on the property of Fred Waring. From this point, a road ran north to the Wallpack bend of the Delaware, where the early Dutch settlers of this area crossed the river from New Jersey. Brink’s Mill at Sciota and a gristmill at Bushkill in Pike County are good examples of the nascent economic development of a somewhat later period (late eighteenth century). Unfortunately, there seems to be little remaining from the late nineteenth century, when the area was spotted with tanneries, icehouses, and logging camps. One of the
first tanneries in the Tannersville area was built and run by Jacob Singmaster at Kresgeville, but it later passed to Stephen Kisler, who was perhaps the most important figure in this industry. Monroe County is also, of course, a part of the scene of Sullivan's march against the Indians.

Leaving Monroe County and driving north on U. S. 209 into Pike County, one passes many of the most important sites between Bushkill and Matamoras. About four and one-half miles west of Bushkill is Unity House, a model workers' resort of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, which has an interesting twentieth-century history and a huge mural by Diego Rivera. This thirteen-panel mural depicting scenes from American history covers a fifty-two-foot wall, and was originally done for Rockefeller Center, but was considered too controversial to be installed there. It is unquestionably the most important artistic treasure in the entire region.

The precise level of the water in the Tocks' reservoir has not been determined, but the best estimates place it at about 480 feet. This means that the little town of Dingman's Ferry north of Bushkill is likely to be inundated. Among the interesting sites here are the Dingman House, an early inn, and the old Dutch Reformed Church, which is a good example of classical revival architecture. At the entrance to Childs' Park, three miles west of Dingman's, are substantial foundation remains of an early nineteenth-century woolen factory (1825).

Two and a half miles south of Milford stands an historical marker for the Wyoming-Minisink Path, an important Indian trail which connected the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers with the Atlantic Ocean. On the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, it followed Raymondskill Creek and passed by Shohola House (Lords Valley), Blooming Grove, Hamlin, Mt. Cobb, and Scranton. The town of Milford has few very early buildings, but it is an exceptionally charming Victorian town which retains much of the leisurely spirit of the boardinghouse resort period, as contrasted with the modern camp and motel period. The earliest building in town is the Milford Jail, erected as the first court-

2 The American financier Jay Gould is said to have first introduced tanning to the region, but there is no clear evidence of this. Gould was one of the directors of the Stroudsburg National Bank.
Old Jail (Milford), completed in 1814, was used as a courthouse, jail, and place of worship. Note pike weathervane, the symbol of Pike County.

house in 1814, and used as both a jail and place of worship in different periods. Now occupied as a home, it is in good condition and a most attractive two-and-one-half-story, hewn-stone structure. There are a number of handsome, small hotels in Milford, but two of the most important sites are just outside of town. On the old road to Matamoras a state historical marker locates the home of Charles Peirce, the founder of pragmatism, who is increasingly recognized as one of America’s great minds in philosophy. Peirce lived here from 1887 to 1914, and wrote much of his work here. Grey Towers at the western edge of town was the castle-like residence of Gifford Pinchot, conservationist and Governor of Pennsylvania, and was dedicated as a conservation institute by John F. Kennedy in 1963. A few miles north of
Charles Peirce House (Milford), was the residence of the great American philosopher from 1887 until 1914.

Milford at Matamoras is a two-story, stone house built by Simon Westfael about 1740 and commonly known as Fort Matamoras. Like the other sites mentioned here, it deserves a careful study of the possibilities for continued preservation.

Several interesting sites are located west of Milford, off U. S. 6. Some remains of the Sylvania Society experiment are identifiable at Greeley, including the foundations of the community house and the gristmill. The society, a Fourieristic project to which Horace Greeley made contributions, also had a pottery shop and wagon shop. At Lackawaxen is a suspension bridge across the Delaware, originally constructed for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company in 1848-1849 by John Roebling, who was to gain worldwide fame with the Brooklyn Bridge. It is one of the
Fort Matamoras (Matamoras) was the home of Simon Westfael and may date from as early as 1714.

oldest steel cable, suspension bridges in the United States. Here also is the site of the battle of Minisink or Lackawaxen (July 22, 1779), in which some 300 Tories and Indians led by Joseph Brant defeated some 170 patriots.

Between Lackawaxen and Honesdale, the bed of the Delaware and Hudson Canal is still visible, and the Wayne County Historical Society occupies a building which was the company office at the western terminus of the canal. The gravity railroad, constructed in 1826-1829, ran from Honesdale to the anthracite mines in Carbondale and was the line over which the Stourbridge Lion made its historic run. Bethany boasts the home and birthplace of David Wilmot, author of the famous proviso that bears his name, both in good condition. These sites, like some of the others men-
tioned in this essay, are remote from the proposed Tocks Island Recreation Area, but would certainly be of interest to park visitors and should be included in general plans for use of the historic resources of northeastern Pennsylvania.

The preservation and most effective use of these historic resources depends upon several things. Private property owners, local and state historical societies, and the National Park Service all have important roles to play. Equally important is the cooperation of organizations with non-historical interests in the region—interests that may, at times, conflict with historic preservation. The activities of scores of agencies and private groups may be related to historic planning, from chambers of commerce and resort bureaus to highway planners, army engineers, and conservation departments. Some master plan for the use of the historic resources of the Tocks Island area would seem to be advisable. If it is to be entirely successful, such a plan may require the cooperation of private and public groups in three states (including New York), and as many as seven counties. Often the development of historic conservation programs cannot be limited by state or county boundaries any more than can programs for watershed development, and plans for historic resources must be considered in relationship to plans for the natural and economic resources of the area.

The nature of the region surrounding the proposed park area may make cooperation somewhat easier to secure than in more highly developed communities. Largely rural and non-industrial in character, the Poconos have few of the powerful economic forces which so often conflict with programs for historic preservation. Those who know this region for its natural beauty can be expected to cooperate with those interested in its historic resources. Fortunately, many people in the resort industry there have considerable sympathy with maintaining, rather than destroying, the beauty of the area. Still, the possibility exists of less responsible commercial interests destroying, if not historic sites themselves, at least the relatively untouched natural scenery of the Poconos. The proposed park will bring many more visitors to the area; this may bring a sorry train of billboards and hot-dog-stand architecture, which will do nothing to enhance the region's natural or historic beauty.
Careful historical research is essential to intelligent use of the historic sites in the Tocks Island area. Without an intensive research program, restorations may lack integrity, interpretation of the historic sites may be superficial, and the park visitor may be left with the restricted view of the antiquarian rather than an enriching historical experience. The National Park Service has exercised a laudable leadership in establishing demanding standards of integrity in preservation work and has set the example for intelligent interpretation of sites. Local historical societies and private property owners who may become involved in preservation work in the Tocks Island area—or elsewhere in Pennsylvania—should be encouraged to follow this example.

Two kinds of research are necessary in making the most effective use of historic resources. Restoration of a site to its original condition requires study of the building and of a multitude of specialized historic subjects of the period and locale. The study of a particular building may require examination of postcard views, photographs, deeds, wills, diaries, account books, and a variety of other sources. Restoration may also require a knowledge of brick manufacturing in the area and period of the site, of costume and furniture, of botany and landscaping, and of other specialized subjects. The survey of the Lehigh History Department made no attempt to go into such depth concerning Tocks Island sites; rather, succinct descriptions of the general physical features and state of preservation of the sites were developed, so that tentative evaluations of their historic and architectural significance could be made. Nevertheless, the Lehigh survey did develop a sizable body of information which may be of use to a number of historic and civic organizations in the Upper Delaware region.

The second type of research necessary to effective use of our resources is local and regional historic studies. General town and county histories are helpful, but in the work of preserving and interpreting sites for visitors, topical studies are often particularly useful. These will vary greatly, depending upon the history of the region and the sites that have survived. In an area that has extensive remains of the canal period, transportation research
should be encouraged. In other areas, attention might be most fruitfully directed to the history of coal mining, urban development, immigration patterns, agricultural innovation, lumbering, Indian mission work, land speculation, religious revivalism, or some other subject.

Some town and county histories have been published concerning the Pennsylvania side of the upper Delaware, but professional historians have left such work largely to amateurs and the results have not been very satisfactory. Many of these works are simply centennial publications, useful for out-of-the-way facts collected in them but scarcely deserving classification as history. Wayne, Pike, and Monroe Counties have one of the large, commercial histories with photographs of prominent citizens that were published for so many American counties. Like most such volumes, Alfred Mathews’s work is a great warehouse of facts and legends, but is generally non-interpretive. One professional historian has made a contribution towards a modern history of Monroe County, and several works of some value have been published on the Wyoming Valley area. Nothing of a similar nature has been done for Pike County.

Most of the best topical studies are concerned with the colonial and revolutionary periods. Three books concerning the frontier forts of 1756 have appeared, as well as a number of essays on the Susquehannock Company and the Yankee-Pennamite Wars, which have marginal relevance for the Tocks region. Much has been done on the Indian Walk of 1737 and the Sullivan Expedition of 1779, but the bulk of this work is non-professional in character. A few books have appeared on particular railroad and canal companies; these tend to be antiquarian and lack the methodological rigor of the best of modern business histories.

For the region surrounding the proposed Tocks Island Recreation Area, reliable historical studies remain to be done on nearly every subject of interest. Thus, the following brief remarks as to the needs and opportunities in this field might best emphasize the more important subjects rather than attempting a comprehensive list. In general, it is felt that the area under discussion is small enough and the primary sources sufficiently limited that studies should be large in scope. For example: support should be given to book-length studies of denominations such as the Moravians, rather than smaller works on a single congregation in one village; investigations of transportation in general, or of a particular type such as canals, are more likely to be useful than studies of individual transportation companies; the whole of the military activities in the Wyoming Valley during the Revolution would be a suitable subject, whereas the story of one regiment's participation in the Sullivan expedition is unlikely to be very significant.

For the eighteenth century, a full study of Indian-white relations, particularly with regard to land purchases, is desirable. Such a study would be most directly concerned with Pennsylvania, and it is hoped, would give us a better understanding of the position of the Lenni-Lenape Indians in relationship to the Iroquois and of the significance of land in the Indian attacks of the 1750's. The few good studies in this field leave room for such work, because most of them revolve about the activities of one man, such as Conrad Weiser. The story of the Walking Purchase could be the subject of an important article.

Very little has been published on the raids of the 1750's, a subject on which thorough research in the Moravian Archives would shed much light. The establishment of the forts in this period has been adequately treated, but the origins of these attacks and their relation to the outbreak of the French and Indian War is not entirely clear. As for the 1770's and '80's, a good deal has been written on the Sullivan Expedition and the Wyoming Massacre, but it is widely scattered, often inaccurate, and largely non-interpretive. What would seem to be called for here is a solid study of military action on this section of the frontier, with analysis of the role played by British regulars, Indians, and Loyalists. The area was very thinly populated before the War for Independence, and studies of loyalist and patriot sentiment might better be made in other regions.
The late settlement of the area makes it feasible to cover all aspects of the early patterns of migration in one general study, except for the story of the Susquehannah Company. That story has been studied in a scholarly fashion, though usually by historians whose primary interest was Connecticut, rather than Pennsylvania, history. The fundamental need is not for more secondary accounts, but for financial aid to bring to completion for publication of the Susquehannah Company papers, four volumes of which were edited by Professor Julian Boyd. More has been written on the land speculation involved and the company’s role in Connecticut politics than on the so-called Yankee-Pennamite Wars.

The Middle States were leaders in transportation development in the canal and railroad era, and the Tocks area was the scene of many representative and of some significant activities in this field. The mountains presented engineering problems not encountered in some other areas; some of the enterprises appear to have been models of fraudulent business practice; and some of America’s great engineers—including Jervis and Roebling—played parts in the effort to develop a sound transportation system.

Some studies in the economic history of Monroe County have been and are being written. It is hoped that similar work will be undertaken for the Port Jervis area and for the upper Delaware River region as a whole. Nearly everything that has been written about the river has naturally been concerned with its course below Trenton. The story of the river and forests north of Easton deserves treatment, at least as it is related to the lumbering and tanning industries of the late nineteenth century.

The Moravian Archives and some other libraries contain sources for the writing of the religious history of the region. Two subjects are especially deserving of attention—the history of the Dutch Reformed Church in the valley and the history of Moravian missionary work. The village of Hope, New Jersey, deserves at least a short separate study as a town founded on ideals of religious communitarianism. The Sylvania experiment at Greeley has also received less study than many other utopian communities, but it does not appear that the sources exist to investigate this subject.

This article mentions only a very few of the sites which are located in the Pennsylvania counties along the upper Delaware
River and suggests only some of the more important subjects which merit study. The realization of the dream of a national park in the area, with an intelligent use of the historic resources there, is a large and costly undertaking. As important as financial support, planning, and the other factors which go into such a project, is a constant alertness on the part of those who have an interest in Pennsylvania's heritage as to the value of our historic resources and an awareness of how they may best be used.