

Chapter 6

Historic and Cultural Resources

Historic sites are another important vulnerable resource in a community. Historic structures and places are an important element in creating and maintaining a community's sense of place. Historic resources add to an area's quality of life by providing the community with pride and ownership of its past. They also make a valuable contribution to the current educational, cultural, and social environment. Preservation makes good economic sense. Long considered the "ultimate in recycling," historic preservation allows for the adaptive re-use of existing buildings and infrastructure, while retaining the heritage that defines a community.

National Register Sites

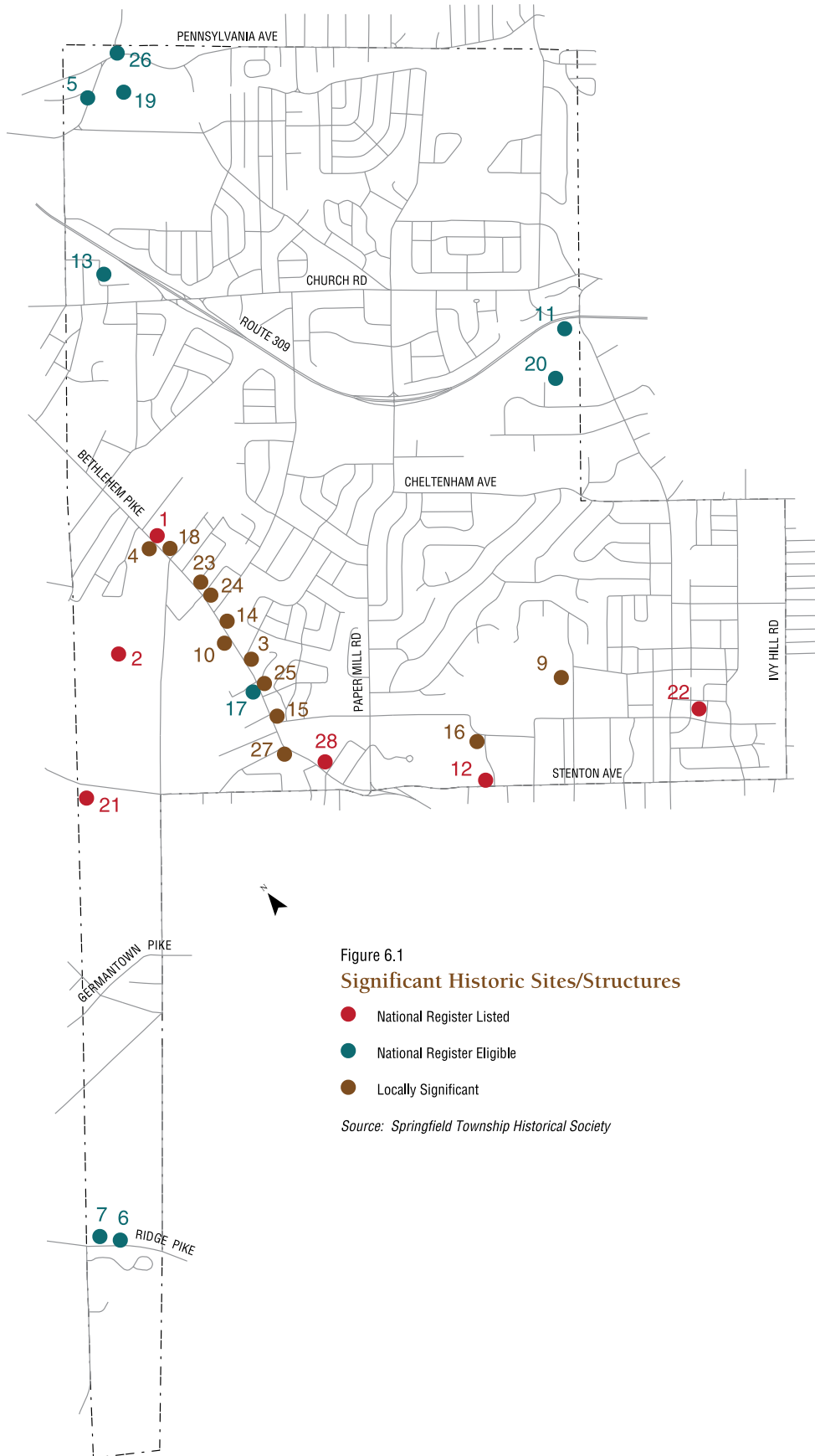
The National Register of Historic Places contains a record of properties considered worthy of preservation at the national level. Six sites in Springfield Township are currently included on the Register: The Black Horse Inn, Springfield Mills, Bloomfield Farms, Carson Valley School, John Welsh House, Stotesbury Club House, and the Yeakel Miller Complex.



Springfield, like many communities, struggle with how to best protect these vulnerable resources when most the cost of restoration is high. The township successfully acquired the Black Horse through a private land development process. Through a multi-year, multi-phase process, public, nonprofit, and private fund raising efforts helped to restore the exterior and then fit-out the interior of the historic inn. It is now home of the Springfield Historical Society and has addition space that could accommodate another tenant on the second floor.

Black Horse Inn before and after renovations





Springfield Township Historical Society

The Springfield Township Historical Society was organized in 1985 with the purpose of researching and preserving the history of Springfield Township and educating the general public about this history. The Springfield Township Historical Society maintains a record of historically significant buildings and works toward the preservation of building of historical or architectural merit. Numerous sites are mentioned below in Figure 6.2. It should be noted that this list is not intended to be a complete listing or confer any priority to these sites in terms of preservation, but rather simply highlights sites that are generally recognized as significant.

Figure 6.2

Historical Site Inventory

Map #	Description	Address	Circa	National Register Status
1	Black Horse Inn; "Sampson & the Lion"	1432 Bethlehem Pike	1833	Listed
2	Carson Valley School	Wissahickon Avenue	1917	Listed
3	COMO House; "Window on Pike" Inn	2 Chesney Lane	1743	None
4	Darwin Hall; Real estate office	1415 Bethlehem Pike	1750	None
5	Fairwold Estate/Reconstructionist Congregation	190-200 Camp Hill Road		Eligible
6	Faulkner-Levering-Rath House	9285 Ridge Pike	1890	Eligible
7	Four-Way Farm/Tecce Property	9301-9305 B Ridge Pike		Eligible
8	Gilbert/Juico Property*	Church Road (north side)		Eligible
9	Guildford; Wharton Sinkler Conference Center	Gravers Lane	1927	None
10	House and carriage home	907 Bethlehem Pike	1876	None
11	Huston/Harkins Property	1799 E. Willow Grove Avenue	1801	Eligible
12	Keystone House; John Welsh House	8765 Stenton Avenue	1867	Listed
13	Lardner/O'Malley Property	606 Grace Lane	1770	Eligible
14	Office of Burke, Lawton, Bewer	926 Bethlehem Pike	1744	None
15	Oyster houses; "Fingers" & "Dudley's"	700 Bethlehem Pike	1829	None
16	Poe House; "Ropsley" house & gardens	8700 Montgomery Avenue	1916	None
17	Rex Property	805 Bethlehem Pike	1890	Eligible
18	Rowe's house (early brick house)	1408 Bethlehem Pike	1850	None
19	Scheetz Property	10 Camp Hill Road	1700s	Eligible
20	Sims Estate/Lloyd-Hope Property	1725-1777 E. Willow Grove Avenue	1910, 1942	Eligible
21	Springfield Mill; Piper-Streeper Mill	Northwestern Avenue	1854	Listed
22	Stotesbury Club House	7830 Eastern Avenue	1904	Listed
23	Streeper-Karr House	1208 Bethlehem Pike	1744	None
24	The "Wardrobe;" Township Library	1140 Bethlehem Pike	1741	None
25	Urbano Property	808 Bethlehem Pike	1820	None
26	Van Ressler Property	Camp Hill Road & Penn Avenue		Eligible
27	Wheelpump Hotel	527 Bethlehem Pike	Pre 1740s	None
28	Yeakel Mill Complex	500 & 502 Bethlehem Pike	1875	Listed

* Not mapped.

Source: Springfield Township.



Historic Resource Protection Goals

Identify, preserve, protect, enhance, and encourage continued utilization and rehabilitation of such areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects having a special historical, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value to the township and its citizens.

Objectives

1. Establish an updated inventory of historic resources.
2. Create a historic resource committee to oversee inventory and make policy recommendations to the township Board of Commissioners.
3. Safeguard the township's historic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in certain districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects.
4. Preserve the character and vitality of neighborhoods and promote economic development through rehabilitation of existing structures.
5. Protect significant historic structures from decline and demolition through encouragement of adaptive reuse.
6. Encourage the continuation of surveys and studies of the township's historical and architectural resources and the maintenance and updating of areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects which may be worthy of landmark designation.
7. Educate and promote the use of preservation easements.

