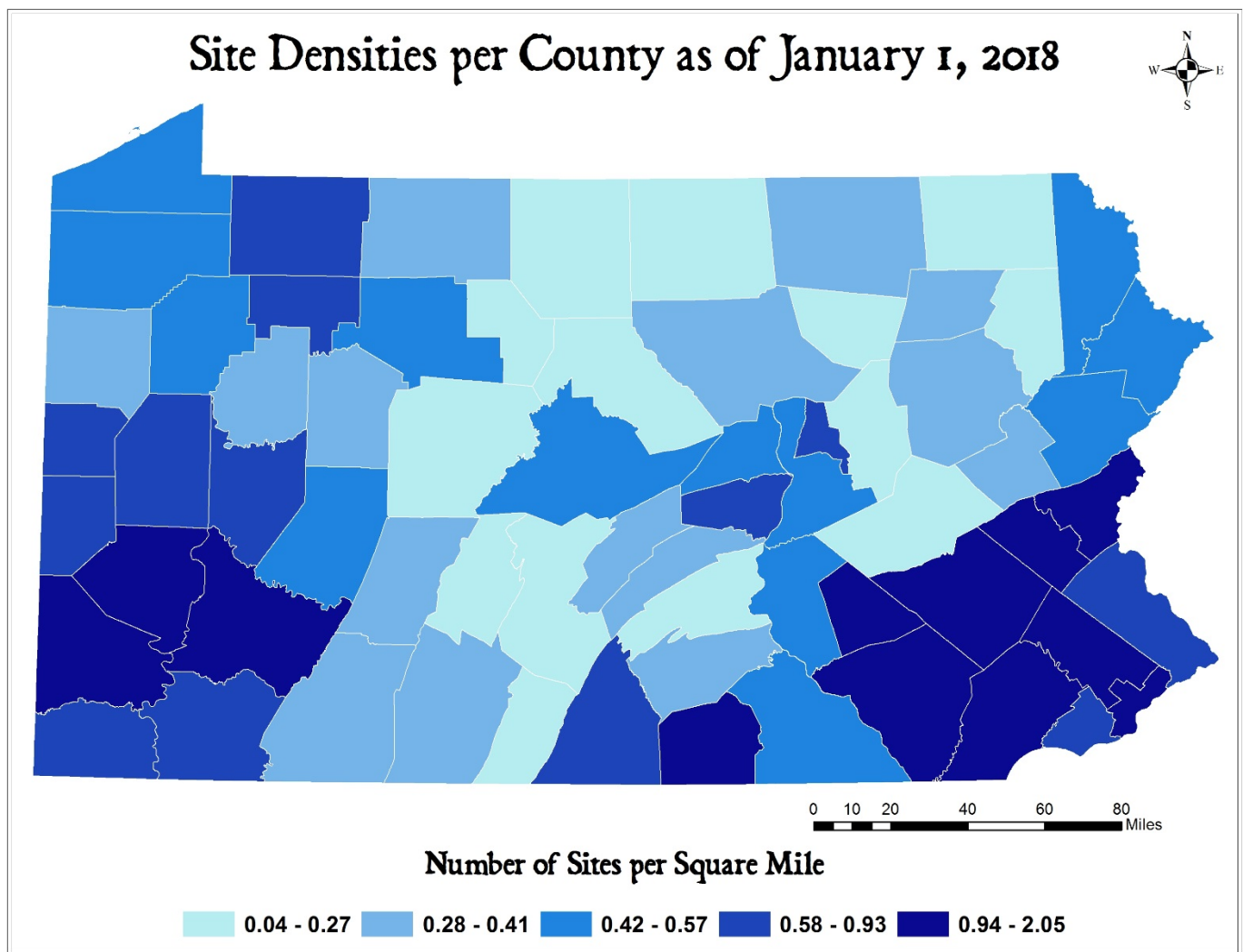




Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

Annual Site Reporting Activity in 2017



Summary

In 2017, 388 new archaeological sites were added to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) files. This represents a significant decrease from 2016, when 518 new sites were recorded. The majority of new sites were discovered and recorded as part of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) surveys, most notably in Berks, Washington, and Westmoreland counties, as well as counties covered by the Allegheny National Forest (especially Forest county).

What's New with PASS in 2017?

There were several changes and new initiatives in 2017 that have affected site recording numbers. Some of these projects will continue over the next few years.

SHPO Backlog Processing and Digitization Projects

Starting in the summer of 2016, the SHPO hired a series of contractors to enter and map backlogged archaeological survey reports and PASS forms into CRGIS. More recently, the SHPO has contracted with a team from JMT to conduct additional file clean-up and to digitize all the report and resource records in the SHPO's file room. As SHPO staff and contractors have been working through old reports, we identified a number of PASS forms that were never given site numbers! As we find these, they are assessed like any new submission, given numbers if appropriate, and added to CRGIS. In 2017, 57 sites were added to PASS as a result of these efforts.

Revised Site Identification Criteria and Isolated Find/Non-Site Collection Form

At the 2017 SPA Annual Meeting, archaeologists from the SHPO and the State Museum announced an update to the Site Identification Criteria. While the definitions for pre-contact sites were simply clarified, the definitions for historic sites were more substantially changed to require reference to historical documentary evidence, and to increase the minimum number of artifacts required to define a site. These changes were designed to reduce the number of low-density historic field scatters that were being added to the PASS files. Around the same time, we also issued a revised Isolated Find and Non-Site Collection Documentation form.

SHPO Archaeological Survey and Outreach Program

This new program is designed to increase recordation of archaeological sites from sources other than CRM projects, and to collect updates and refined boundaries for previously-recorded sites. Currently the program is focused on outreach to universities and SPA chapters, although a survey of CCC-related resources in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) was also piloted during summer 2017. Future program efforts will involve recording resources on state-managed lands, and identifying survey strategies for under-represented counties. In 2017, SHPO survey resulted in recording two new sites in the ANF as well as updates to several previously-recorded sites.

Site Recording Sources

In addition to the sites recorded through CRM surveys and SHPO projects, new sites have also come from universities, SPA chapters, and other organizations. A few of these efforts are highlighted below.

Sources of New Archaeological Sites in 2017

Source	Sites Recorded
SHPO Backlog and Digitization	57
CRM	291
Individual Recorders	3
Other Organizations	13
SHPO Survey	2
SPA Chapters	6
University Projects	16

Pennsylvania Archaeology Shipwreck Survey Team (PASST)

Since 2015, PASST has been documenting shipwrecks in Lake Erie. Their investigations include remote sensing, historical research, and dives to the various wrecks. In 2017, the organization submitted a batch of PASS forms to obtain site numbers for 12 of these wrecks.

Harry Wilson Collection

For the past several years, students and faculty at West Chester University have been curating and documenting the Wilson Collection, which consists of over 1000 pre-contact artifacts that were collected by Harry Wilson in southeastern PA between 1880 and 1943. Last year, a batch of sites forms were prepared based on Wilson's field notes and map, and 7 sites in Chester county were added to PASS.

Archaeological Overview and Assessment at Fort Necessity National Battlefield

In 2015 Indiana University of Pennsylvania contracted with the NPS and the Chesapeake Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit to conduct an archaeological overview and assessment of the resources within Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Through fieldwork and careful examination of old survey reports, IUP identified a number of sites that had never been added to PASS. Based on new research and old documentation, they prepared 6 new site forms, as well as updates to records and mapping for previously-recorded sites within the park.

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County	1/1/2018	1/1/2017	New	Deletions	Density
Adams	568	562	6	-	1.08 sites / sq. mi
Allegheny	737	716	21	-	1.01 sites / sq. mi
Armstrong	580	575	5	-	0.89 sites / sq. mi
Beaver	405	399	6	-	0.92 sites / sq. mi
Bedford	346	345	1	-	0.34 sites / sq. mi
Berks	973	944	29	-	1.13 sites / sq. mi
Blair	127	126	1	-	0.24 sites / sq. mi
Bradford	353	342	11	-	0.31 sites / sq. mi
Bucks	463	456	7	-	0.75 sites / sq. mi
Butler	502	497	5	-	0.63 sites / sq. mi
Cambria	217	216	1	-	0.31 sites / sq. mi
Cameron	72	72	0	-	0.18 sites / sq. mi
Carbon	157	153	4	-	0.39 sites / sq. mi
Centre	553	551	2	-	0.50 sites / sq. mi
Chester	1,031	1,008	23	-	1.35 sites / sq. mi
Clarion	207	204	3	-	0.35 sites / sq. mi
Clearfield	114	114	0	-	0.10 sites / sq. mi
Clinton	227	227	0	-	0.25 sites / sq. mi
Columbia	59	57	2	-	0.12 sites / sq. mi
Crawford	487	487	0	-	0.48 sites / sq. mi
Cumberland	227	225	2	-	0.41 sites / sq. mi
Dauphin	256	253	3	-	0.49 sites / sq. mi
Delaware	168	167	1	-	0.91 sites / sq. mi
Elk	388	369	20	1	0.48 sites / sq. mi
Erie	346	328	18	-	0.43 sites / sq. mi
Fayette	582	572	10	-	0.73 sites / sq. mi
Forest	318	267	51	-	0.76 sites / sq. mi
Franklin	442	441	1	-	0.59 sites / sq. mi
Fulton	79	77	2	-	0.18 sites / sq. mi
Greene	484	474	10	-	0.84 sites / sq. mi
Huntingdon	230	229	1	-	0.26 sites / sq. mi
Indiana	472	468	4	-	0.57 sites / sq. mi
Jefferson	196	191	5	-	0.30 sites / sq. mi
Juniata	126	124	2	-	0.33 sites / sq. mi
Lackawanna	80	70	10	-	0.18 sites / sq. mi
Lancaster	1,612	1,600	12	-	1.70 sites / sq. mi

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County	1/1/2018	1/1/2017	New	Deletions	Density
Lawrence	343	341	2	-	0.93 sites / sq. mi
Lebanon	563	562	1	-	1.55 sites / sq. mi
Lehigh	362	360	2	-	1.04 sites / sq. mi
Luzerne	341	341	0	-	0.38 sites / sq. mi
Lycoming	354	353	1	-	0.29 sites / sq. mi
McKean	307	301	6	-	0.31 sites / sq. mi
Mercer	275	275	0	-	0.41 sites / sq. mi
Mifflin	120	120	0	-	0.28 sites / sq. mi
Monroe	284	283	1	-	0.46 sites / sq. mi
Montgomery	492	488	4	-	0.99 sites / sq. mi
Montour	94	94	0	-	0.72 sites / sq. mi
Northampton	352	352	0	-	0.94 sites / sq. mi
Northumberland	198	197	1	-	0.44 sites / sq. mi
Perry	88	87	1	-	0.16 sites / sq. mi
Philadelphia	218	212	6	-	1.69 sites / sq. mi
Pike	268	268	0	-	0.49 sites / sq. mi
Potter	49	49	0	-	0.04 sites / sq. mi
Schuylkill	98	95	3	-	0.13 sites / sq. mi
Snyder	297	297	0	-	0.91 sites / sq. mi
Somerset	404	403	1	-	0.37 sites / sq. mi
Sullivan	32	32	0	-	0.07 sites / sq. mi
Susquehanna	222	208	14	-	0.27 sites / sq. mi
Tioga	179	179	0	-	0.16 sites / sq. mi
Union	150	150	0	-	0.47 sites / sq. mi
Venango	320	320	0	-	0.47 sites / sq. mi
Warren	651	633	18	-	0.72 sites / sq. mi
Washington	1,754	1,739	15	-	2.05 sites / sq. mi
Wayne	308	307	1	-	0.42 sites / sq. mi
Westmoreland	1,138	1,118	20	-	1.11 sites / sq. mi
Wyoming	129	126	3	-	0.32 sites / sq. mi
York	469	460	9	-	0.52 sites / sq. mi
TOTALS	25,043	24,656	388	1	0.56 sites / sq. mi

Density is measured as “x sites / 1 square mile.” It is calculated by dividing the number of recorded sites in the county by the area of the county in square miles.

The statewide density is 0.56 sites per square mile.

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Twelve Counties with the Greatest Increase in Sites during 2017

Ranking	County	Number Recorded	% of Total Increase
1	Forest	51	13.14%
2	Berks	29	7.47%
3	Chester	23	5.93%
4	Allegheny	21	5.41%
5	Elk	20	5.15%
5	Westmoreland	20	5.15%
6	Erie	18	4.64%
6	Warren	18	4.64%
7	Washington	15	3.87%
8	Susquehanna	14	3.61%
9	Lancaster	12	3.09%
10	Bradford	11	2.84%
Total		252	64.95%

Distribution of Increase in Number of Sites between 1/1/2017 and 1/1/2018

Counties	# of New Sites
16	0
13	1
7	2
4	3
3	4
3	5
4	6
1	7
1	9
3	10

Counties	# of New Sites
1	11
1	12
1	14
1	15
2	18
2	20
1	21
1	23
1	29
1	51

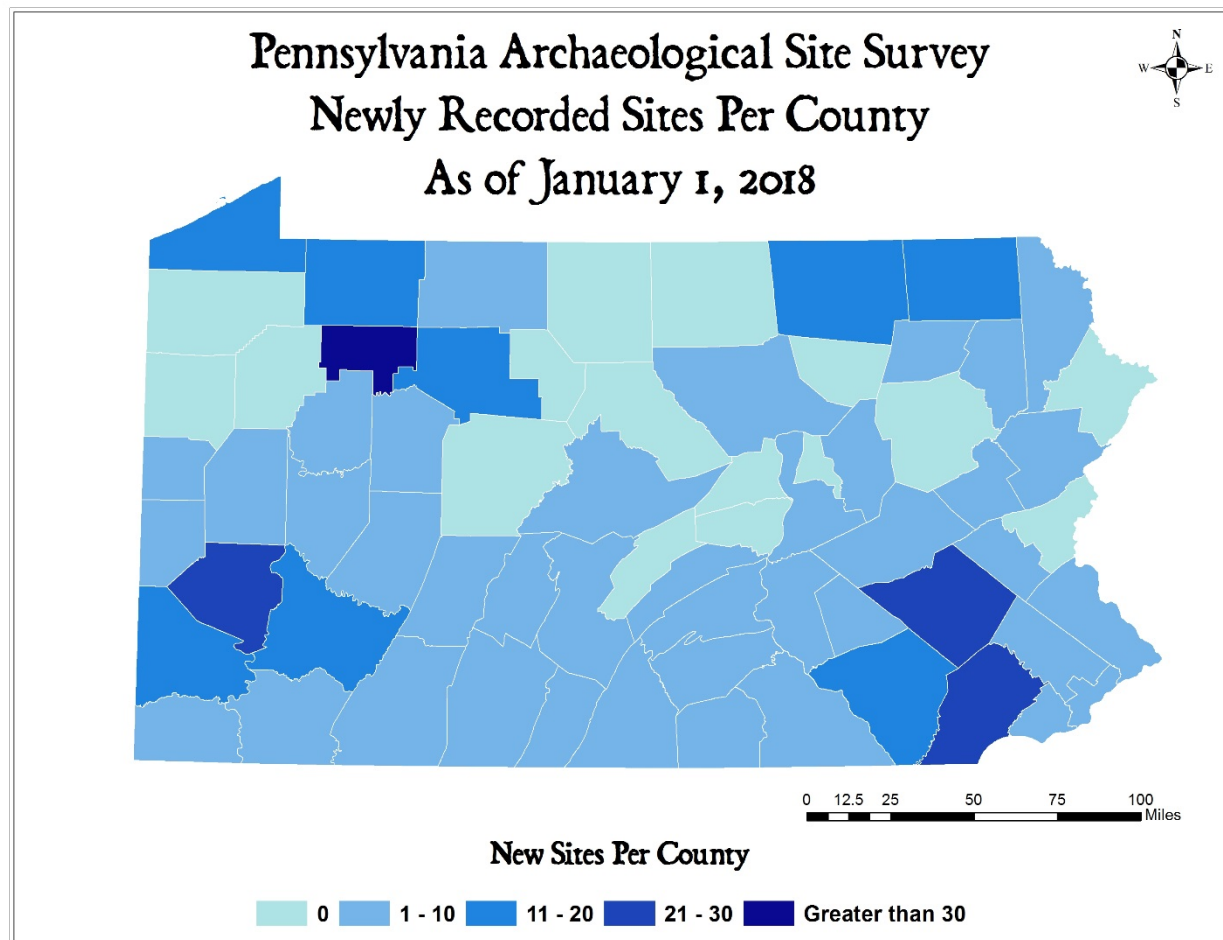


Figure 1. Map displaying the number of new sites recorded in each county.

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Ten Counties with the Highest Numbers of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Number	% of Total Sites
1	Washington	1754	7.00%
2	Lancaster	1612	6.44%
3	Westmoreland	1138	4.54%
4	Chester	1031	4.12%
5	Berks	973	3.89%
6	Allegheny	737	2.94%
7	Warren	651	2.60%
8	Fayette	582	2.32%
9	Armstrong	579	2.31%
10	Adams	568	2.27%
Total		9625	38.43%

Ten Counties with the Greatest Density of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Sites / Sq. Mile
1	Washington	2.05
2	Lancaster	1.70
3	Philadelphia	1.69
4	Lebanon	1.55
5	Chester	1.35
6	Berks	1.13
7	Westmoreland	1.11
8	Adams	1.08
9	Lehigh	1.04
10	Allegheny	1.01

Ten Counties with the Lowest Numbers of Recorded Sites

Ranking	County	Number	% of Total Sites	
67	Sullivan	32	0.13%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
66	Potter	49	0.20%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
65	Columbia	59	0.24%	
64	Cameron	72	0.29%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
63	Fulton	79	0.32%	
62	Lackawanna	80	0.32%	
61	Perry	88	0.35%	
60	Montour	94	0.38%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
59	Schuylkill	98	0.39%	
58	Clearfield	114	0.46%	<i>No change from 2016</i>
Total		765	3.05%	