

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



THE DURHAM TRAIL

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Minsi Trails Council. BSA
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HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

7/1/2023 Edition

HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

This historic trails program was developed by the Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide additional outdoor program activities as well as an insight into our American heritage. Its purpose is to promote citizenship training and physical fitness. This is accomplished through an exciting hiking program that features recognition for achievement.

In order that we might understand the story of our trails we must go back in time and relive the events that shaped our nation over 250 years ago. Our trail emblem is symbolic of those events in history that played such an important role in our nations development.

Upon examining the emblem we see the profiles of three figures, each symbolic of the people that shaped our land. The Native American is a symbol of our earliest history. The Pioneer represents the hardy men who opened up the frontier and the Continental Soldier is a reminder of the sacrifices endured so that we might be free.

The Liberty Bell was housed in Allentown during the British occupation of Philadelphia and is our National symbol of freedom. The Moravian belfry is representative of the Moravian influence in this area and is symbolic of our religious heritage. The Easton flag was the first stars and stripes flag. It was flown at the reading of the Declaration of Independence in Easton, PA on July 8, 1776.

The trail segments symbolize the various aspects of our early history. The tri-cornered hat is representative of the Colonial period and as such is the symbol of the **Colonial Trail**. The Durham boat represents the extensive use of the canal system of the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries and is a symbol of the **Durham Trail**. The Paschal Lamb of the **Moravian Trail** symbolizes the Moravian influence in our valley. The Peace Pipe of the **Uncas Trail** symbolizes our Native American Heritage and the powderhorn of the **Sullivan Wilderness Trail** is symbolic of the early struggles of our country. The hammer and pick ax symbolize our industrial heritage for the **Industrial Heritage Trail**. The Moravian Star is another symbol of our Moravian cultural heritage and represents the **Nazareth Trail**. The bull's eye is the symbol of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. which owned the Lehigh and Delaware canal and represents the **Towpath Trail**. The ore car represents the **Quarries Trail**. The mountains and the river represent the Delaware Water Gap, the gateway to the Poconos and is the symbol of the **Gateway to the Poconos Trail**.

The trail medal features a bronze medallion suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. The medallion consists of the three figures on the emblem and also a fourth, that of a Moravian woman. This latter figure is in honor of all the Colonial women and their extensive contributions to our land.

Thus, the emblem and medal are symbolic of the men and women who settled our Country and guided its destiny. We are the inheritors of their dream. As you journey along these trails, may you be inspired with the same love for and devotion to our nation as were our forebearers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAIL AWARDS

1. Only current registered Scouts BSA, Venturers, Explorers, Unit Leaders, Cadette or older Girl Scouts and Leaders may receive the trail medal. For those groups traveling more than 500 miles, a national tour permit is required.
2. Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts and any other individuals who hike the trails may purchase the patches and segments only for which they qualify. Any three of the required five trails for a medal may be completed as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Brownie, or Junior Girl Scout.
3. Awards may be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop. Rockers (depicted on the back cover and shaded for the hike in this pamphlet) are available for each hike. Upon completing the first hike you may also purchase the round center patch.
4. Qualifications for the trail medal is to hike, in full, any five of the Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A., Historic Trails. Trail medals may also be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

1. The Scout Oath and Scout Law apply at all times
2. Safety is a major concern. Use proper hiking methods, precautions and common sense (see Scouts BSA Handbook for additional information). Individuals need to check weather and safety conditions prior to hiking the trails. Note that some trails are in hunting areas, please check local hunting dates. Additionally, leaders should be familiar with the [Guide to Safe Scouting \(GSS\)](#) as well as course SCO_800 Hazardous Weather Training, available at my.scouting.org. The BSA also has the S.A.F.E. program which provides a concise checklist for running safe activities: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>
3. No trespassing on private property. Respect the rights of others.
4. All the hikes have been prepared as day long hikes. Toilet and overnight facilities have not been provided.
5. Knowledge of basic compass, map reading and hiking procedures is necessary.
6. Scouts are encouraged to be in uniform and carry their current registration cards.
7. Two responsible adults (21 years or older) are necessary for any group of hikers younger than 21. If the group exceeds ten youths, it is recommended that there be an additional adult for every additional five youths. These adults must be current with BSA Youth Protection Training and Pennsylvania ACT 15 requirements. If female youth are hiking at least 1 female leader must be in attendance on the hike as well per BSA guidelines.
8. Trail lunches and a garbage bag to be carried out should be taken with you.
9. Most of the hikes note museums and buildings which may be visited. The hikes, due to time constraints, do not lend themselves to visitations during a hike. Should you want to visit any of the museums or buildings noted, please make arrangements with the appropriate groups prior to your visit.
10. The Historic Trails Committee has attempted to provide areas where parking should be sufficient at both the beginning and end of each trail. Be sure you have sufficient and safe transportation at both the beginning and end of the trails.

THE DURHAM TRAIL

(Approximately 15 miles)

The Durham Trail extends from the Saucon Creek in Hellertown to the Durham locks. It joins the Moravian Trail which extends from Bethlehem to Hellertown.

The name Saucon Creek comes from the Lenni Lenape Indian word Sakunk, meaning “that place where a small stream empties into a large river.” The Saucon Creek empties into the Lehigh River to the north of the beginning of this trail in the town of Freemansburg (which can be viewed from *The Uncas Trail*).

It is in Durham that the famous Durham boats were built to transport the products of the iron masters of the Durham Furnace. These boats, due to their excellent craftsmanship, handled well in white water and carrying the iron to Philadelphia. The Durham boat made its final voyage on March 6, 1867. These boats played a very significant role in our early history. They were the craft used to ferry George Washington and his troops in their Crossing of the Delaware on the evening of Christmas in 1776.

The Durham Trail takes you to the famous Durham Furnace built in 1727 and to the Durham Locks. Along the trail was the beginning of industry in colonial America, a significant part of our American heritage. Colonel George Taylor, owner of the Durham Furnace, was the Lehigh Valley’s first Iron Master and also was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was probably the valley’s first captain of industry. You can see George Taylor’s house if you hike *The Industrial Heritage Trail*, available as a separate booklet.

Start of Trail

- **The Durham Trail begins in Hellertown at the Water Street Park next to the Saucon Creek.**
- **Walk to Water Street and make a right, crossing the Saucon Creek on the sidewalk. Cross over Friedensville Road (Water St) using the crosswalk to the...**



Heller Homestead - 1751

Heller Homestead - Johan Michael Heller's homestead is now a park in Lower Saucon Township. Four original structures still remain on this ~14 acre park. The Michael Heller house (c. 1751), the Widow's House (c. 1850), an original root cellar, and the remains of a 2.5 story stone barn (c. 1751). On June 28, 2010, the National Park Service listed the Michael & Margaret Heller House in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance. More information can be found here: <http://www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org/homestead.html>

- **Cross Water Street at the crosswalk and take a reading of 90 degrees and walk to the traffic light on Main Street**
- **At Main Street, go north for 650 feet while remaining on the west side of the street.**

Here at 766 Main Street stands the Boehm House (currently George's Barber Shop), the first house built in town. It was originally a log structure built in 1747 by the son of Rev. John Philip Boehm, the first minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Pennsylvania. The stone portion was added later, encompassing several businesses which now occupy the building. It is the only old part of the exterior of the building that is visible.

- **From the Boehm House take a reading of 175 degrees, walk approximately 200' and at the crosswalk, cross Main Street and hike to the plaza.**

HISTORIC PLAQUE

This area is called _____ and is dedicated in memory of _____ the first homeopathic physician in Pennsylvania.

The stone and flagstone used in the construction of the plaza came from the razed buildings which occupied the spot and their sidewalks.

The municipal building stands across the street and directly south of the plaza. This building was erected in 1818 and altered by adding a hotel wing to its livery stables. The additions have been removed to return the building to its original design. The walls and framing are the original materials.

HISTORIC PLAQUE

Hellertown was incorporated in the year _____.

- **In front of the borough building take a reading of 190 degrees and proceed approximately 300 feet to a narrow alley (637 Main St.) Head east for 180 feet to Laubach Street.**

The small stone building which stands a few yards from you at a bearing of 144 degrees is the first jail in Hellertown, built in 1872.



Hellertown Jail - 1872

- **From in front of the jail proceed south 200 feet to Penn Street. Continue at 270 degrees to Main Street.**
- **Head south along Main St for 0.25 of a mile to Walnut Street. Hike west on Walnut St. for 400 feet.**



Wagner Grist Mill - 1767

A _____ stands on the south side of Walnut Street. It was built by Stoffel Wagner in 1767. Many of these buildings existed along the Saucon Creek, but only a few remain.

Looking across the street, you will see Northampton County Bridge Number _____, repaired in 1950 and restored in 1999. This bridge was the original Walnut Street bridge in Hellertown, and was erected circa 1860. This is the only High Truss span known to exist. The bridge was added to a list of national historic sites and received its official certification on June 13, 2023. Further information, along with historical photographs on the Walnut Street “Pony” Bridge can be found here: <https://historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridge-browser=pennsylvania/hellertownwalnut/>



Walnut Street “Pony” Bridge - 1860

- From this building retrace your route back to Main Street. Cross Main Street and continue hiking on E. Walnut Street until it intersects with Consitution Ave / Panther Way. Continue East along Panther Way.
- At the intersection of Panther Way and Reservoir Road, take a bearing of 175 degrees and continue on Reservoir Rd approx .2 of a mile.
- At the intersection of Reservoir Rd and Polk Valley Rd, head East for 1.9 miles until you come to Lower Saucon Rd. Make a right and continue on Lower Saucon Rd for approx. 2.5 miles.
- Turn left onto Church Street and head east .2 miles until you come to Village Alley. Follow Village Alley in a Southernly direction and cross Main Street at the crosswalk.
- Head East on Main Street until you come to:

Springtown Inn - Built c. 1830 by Christopher Witte. The village of Springtown was established in 1763. More information on Springtown and the inn can be found here: <https://www.springtowninn.com/history>. Notice the porches which extend over the sidewalks on some of the buildings in Springtown.



Springtown Inn / Colonial Tavern

- Continue east on Route 212 using extreme caution. Approximately 0.4 of a mile turn left on Funks Mill Road (before the bridge crossing Cooks Creek). Funks Mill Road will intersect with Adams Way in approxmiately 0.2 of a mile, continue left staying on Funks Mill Road.

- **Continue in a north easterly direction on Funks Mill Road for 2.6 miles, crossing over Keleman Road, until you come to a “T”; turn right onto Dogwood Lane.**
- **Proceed on Dogwood Lane for 0.6 miles to Durham Road. Turn right for 0.3 of a mile and you will be at the remains of a portion of the Durham mill and furnace.**



Durham Mill - 1819

The Durham Feed Mill built in 1819 is on the site of the Durham Furnace, built in 1727 and operated until 1908. This was an important point to canal shipping.

On the south side in the hill is a furnace entrance rebuilt in _____. Two prominent owners were James Logan and Colonel George Taylor. Notice the replica Durham Boat located adjacent to the mill. In the 1700's, Robert Durham built this historical boat here in Durham, PA. The boats were used to ship cannonballs made at the nearby Durham Furnace to Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. On Christmas Eve, 1776, General George Washington, who would become our Nation's first President, crossed the Delaware River in Durham boats to attack the Hessians at Trenton.



Replica of Durham Boat

- **Continue east, from the Mill, on Old Furnace Road for 0.6 of a mile where you will come to Route 212. Continue east on Route 212 for 0.2 miles to Rattlesnake Rd.**
- **After .2 miles, make a left onto Stouts Valley Rd (you can walk over the bridge closed to vehicles), and after 390' make a right onto Sherers Hill Rd. This will become Delaware Rd.**
- **Continue on Delaware Rd. for 1 mile. At St. Peter's Lutheran Church, head north on Church Rd. until you reach St. John UCC's parking lot. Proceed through the parking lot in an easternly direction next to the church to 611 and head south on 611 to Delaware Rd.**
- **Make a left on Delaware Rd. and a right onto Durham Rd. (.1 mile).**
- **Proceed to the D&L Trail Riegelsville Trailhead and cross the red metal pedestrian bridge at Maplewood Road to the parking lot of the Riegelsville Inn.**



Riegelsville Inn - 1838

Riegelsville Inn - The Riegelsville Inn was built in 1838 by Benjamin Riegel, founder of the town. The historic building stands on the banks of the Delaware River across from the Riegelsville Bridge.

Riegelsville Bridge - The bridge was built by the John A. Roebling & Sons Company, famous for building the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. More information on the inn and bridge can be found here: <https://riegelsvilleinn.com/history/>. The Library of Congress has some old photos of the bridge located [here](#). Finally, this website contains additional bridge documentation and why it is historically significant: <https://historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridgebrowser=newjersey/riegelsville/>.



Riegelsville Bridge - 1904

- **When leaving the Riegelsville Inn, continue back towards the foot-bridge but instead go down the steps to the towpath. From here, follow the D&L Trail in a southerly direction for 1.2 miles until you come to the Durham Aqueduct / Durham Furnace Lock #21.**



Durham Aqueduct

The Durham Aqueduct allowed for the Delaware Canal to continue over top Cooks Creek, which empties into the nearby Delaware River. Pig iron and finished iron product manufactured at the Durham Iron Works were shipped to Philadelphia and elsewhere via the Delaware Canal.

More information on the Delaware Canal State Park can be found here: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/DelawareCanalStatePark/Pages/History.aspx>

END OF TRAIL.

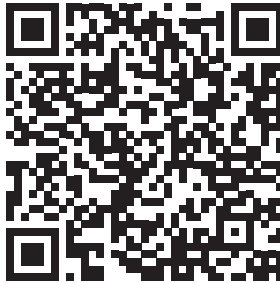
This concludes the hiking requirements for the Durham trail and its related patch segments. Another interesting historic trail that connects with the Durham Trail is the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Towpath Trail. Information regarding this trail can be found in a separate booklet - The Towpath Trail.

Start of Durham Trail: Take Route 412 (Main St.) to Hellertown. Turn west on Water St., go ¼ mile to Water Street Park at Saucon Creek. There is ample parking in the park.

End of Durham Trail: The trail ends at the D&L Trail Durham Locks - lock #21. There is parking available here.

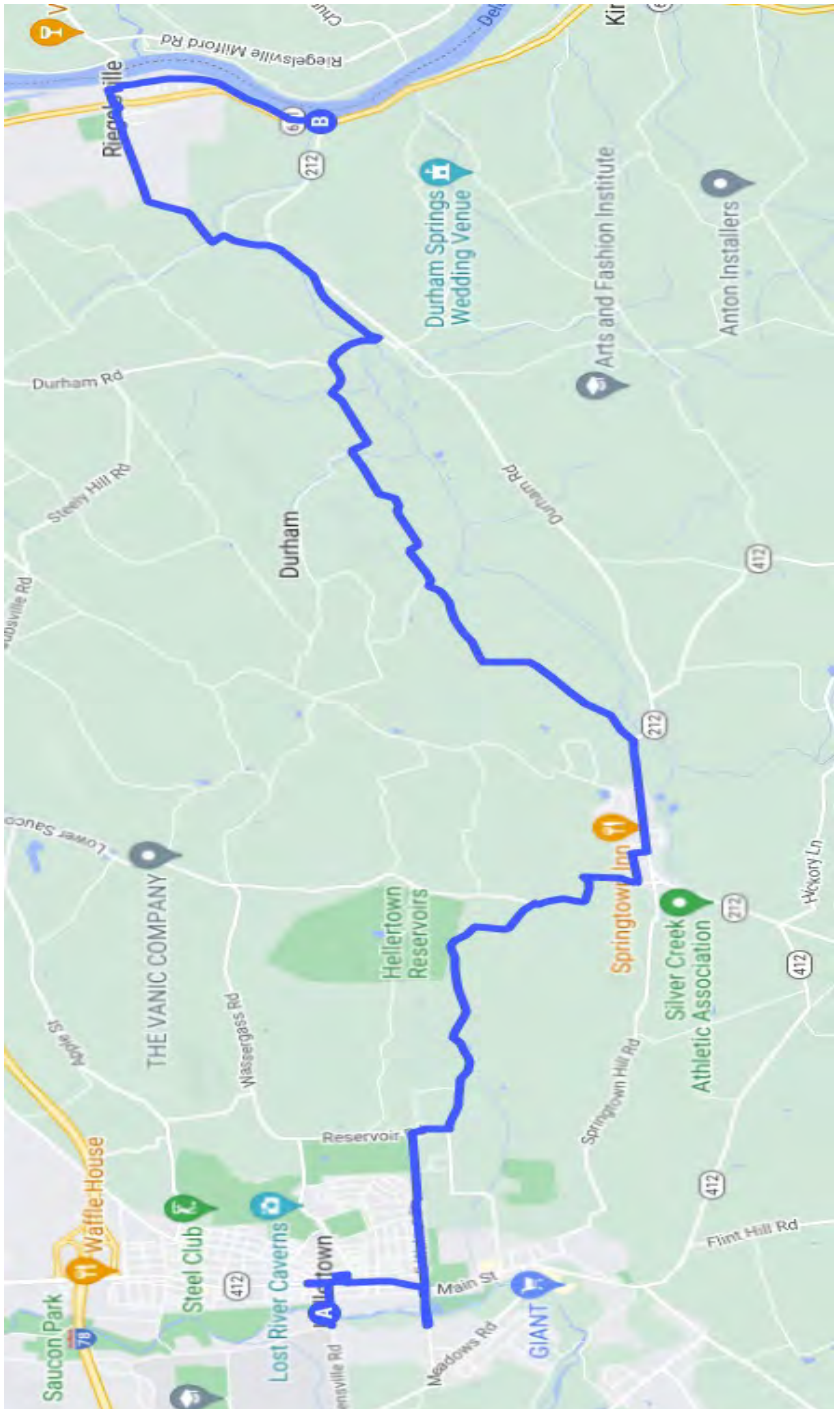
To view an online version of the map on the following page please [click here](#).

You may also open the online map using this QR Code:

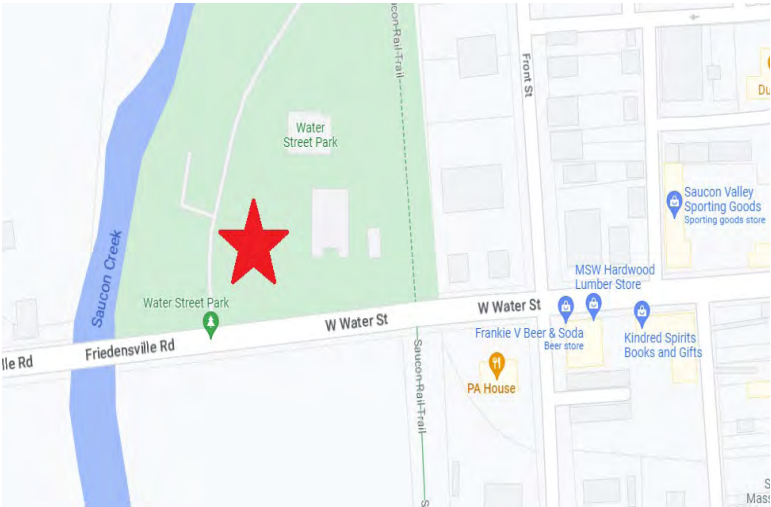


Please note: There are some limitations with Google maps. While the online map is fairly accurate, it only can trace roads / mapped walking paths. Use it as a guide, but it's not 100% accurate.

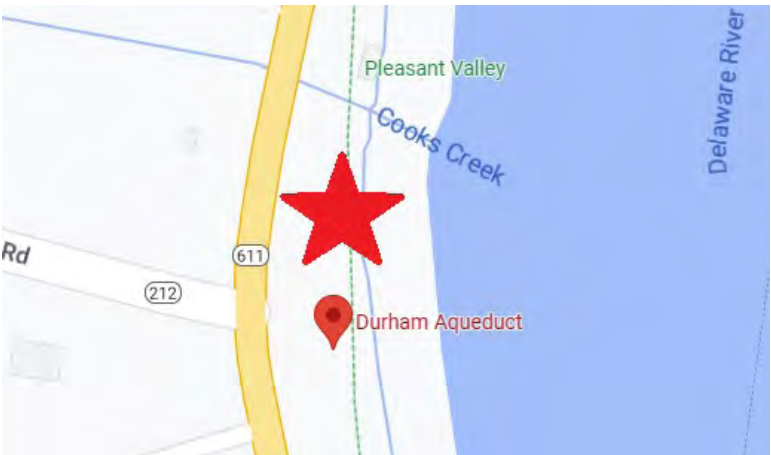
THE DURHAM TRAIL



Approximately 15 miles



Start of Trail - W. Water Street, Hellertown, PA 18055



End of Trail - 1499 Easton Road, Kintnersville, PA 18930

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL HISTORIC TRAILS COMMITTEE

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Arnold F. Traupman - Activities Committee Chairperson
Darren S. Woodruff
Richard D. Christ - Council Executive

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Barbara L. Brown
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Ed Erickson
Wayne E. Gross
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Elwood Johnson
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Martin Walsh - Program Director

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Special thanks to Venturing Crew 364, Coopersburg, PA for their assistance in this 2023 refresh of the Durham Trail.

SPONSORS

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DURHAM TRAIL - Hellertown Lions Club
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NAZARETH TRAIL
QUARRIES TRAIL
SULLIVAN WILDERNESS TRAIL - Kiwanis Club of Stroudsburg
TOWPATH TRAIL
UNCAS TRAIL - Rotary Club of Easton

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B.S.A. Troop 10, Advent Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 14, St. Matthews Evan. Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 18, Rosemont Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 86, United Methodist Church, Stroudsburg, PA
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Mr. Richard Szarko. *Eagle Scout. BSA Troop 14. Bethlehem. PA*
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Mrs. Oliver B. Zug, *Historic Bethlehem*
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Hugh Moore Park Commission, Easton
Frank Huth & Son, Inc.
Ironton Railroad & Thomas Iron Co. Museum, Coplay
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
Lehigh County Historical Society
Minsi Trails Council Executive Board
Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, PA
Moravian Church of North America
Moravian Hall Square Museum & Craft Shop
Moravian Historical Society
Moravian Museum of Bethlehem
Nazareth Business and Professional Woman's Club
Nazareth Chamber of Commerce
Nazareth Heritage, Inc.
Nazareth Lions Club
Nazareth Lioness Club
Nazareth Rotary Club
Northampton County Historical Society
Old Freemansburg, Assoc., Freemansburg, PA
Pocono Mountain School District
Slatebelt Museum, Mount Bethel, PA
Urban Research & Development Corp.
Witachsoman Lodge 44 Order of the Arrow
Woman's Club of Catasauqua, PA

Monroe County Architecture 1737-1979 - C. J. Klofach
Portland Commemorative Book 1976, J. Loyd, E. Kline
Stroudsburg Walking Tour



Durham Furnace Entrance - Rebuilt 1932



Delaware Canal Lock 21



Hellertown Borough Hall - 1942

NOTES

Scout's Name:

Hike Leaders:

Unit:

Date of Hike:

Weather:

Number of participants:

Interesting things you saw:

For additional information, contact: Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A.
P.O. Box 20624
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624
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