



Whitehall Township Industrial & Commercial Development Authority
The Resource to Start & Grow Your Business
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October 21, 2022

Re: Hokendauqua's Thomas Iron Company Town District receives National Park Service listing in National Register of Historic Places

Whitehall Township, PA, the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority (WTICDA), and Hokendauqua property owners recently received approval from the National Park Service in Washington DC, regarding the listing of Hokendauqua's Thomas Iron Company Town in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The property received the distinguished honor on September 19, 2022. It's Single Nomination ID# is NPSID#SG100008170.

PENNSYLVANIA, LEHIGH COUNTY,
Hokendauqua Thomas Iron Company Town Historic District,
Roughly bounded by Front, Center, Carbon, Vine, and South Sts.,
Whitehall, SG100008170,
LISTED, 9/19/2022

The listing can be found online at the NPS's "National Register Program" enhanced electronic submissions system, called the Cultural Resources Submission Portal (CRSP or "crisp"). Instructions for using and the link for accessing CRSP may be found on National Register website at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Board approved the nomination for this proposed historic district on February 1, 2022, by a unanimous vote to move the project forward for consideration for the prestigious Registry by the National Park Service (NPS). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) submitted the nomination to the NPS.

The National Register is an honorary designation that can be an effective planning, educational, and promotional tool for communities, businesses, and local governments and a source of pride for residents. The listing will have no effect on what property owners can do with their property. There are no regulations or restrictions that accompany the listing.

The Whitehall Township Commissioners began the process of pursuing the listing in the National Register in 2018. Since then, the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority (WTICDA) has championed the efforts, along with local and state officials in the Township, holding several public meetings to explain what the listing actually meant for property owners.

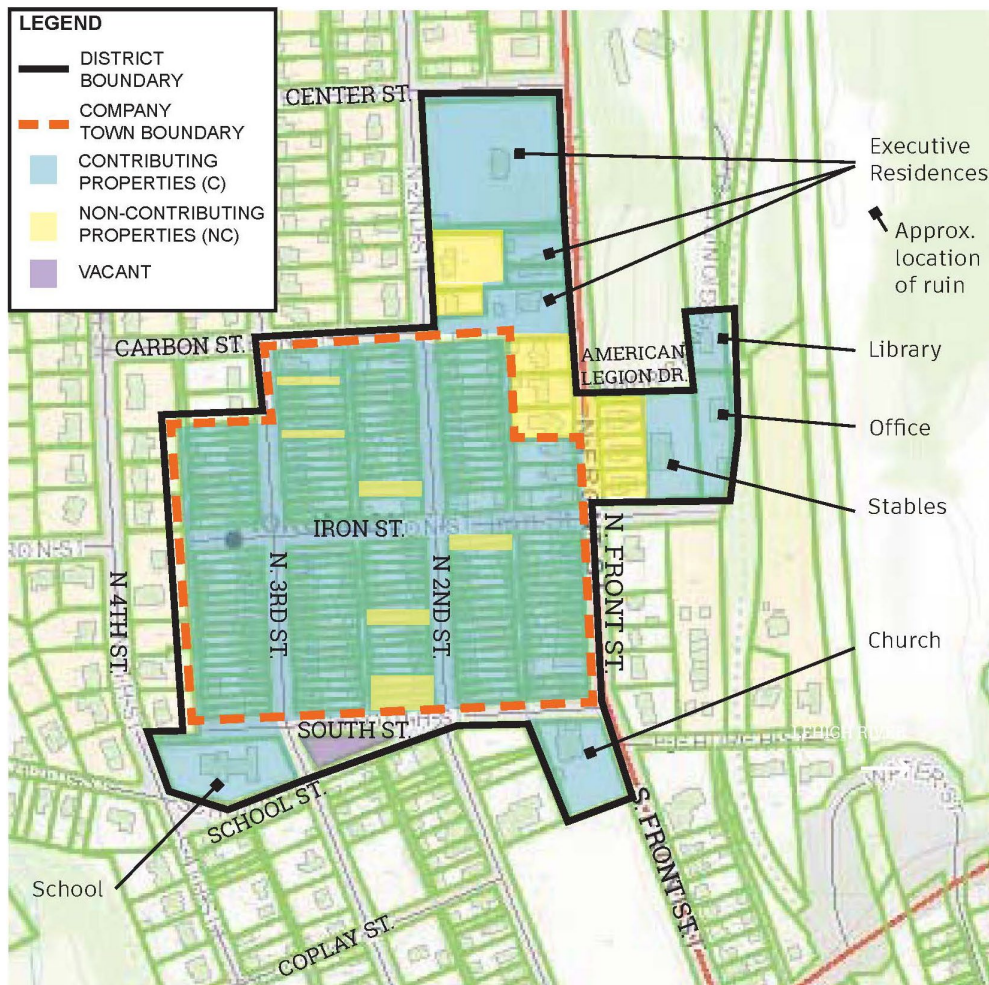
National Register recognition will bring awareness to this unique neighborhood of homes and celebrate one of the many historic areas and buildings in Whitehall Township. The majority of the homes in the

potential listed district were built by the Thomas Iron Company and are unique in their style and cohesiveness. The boundary of the district also includes civic buildings associated with the company and the Thomas Company workers. Additionally, it includes a few “non-contributing” homes located within the proposed boundary by circumstance.

The nomination was funded through a generous grant under the Lehigh County Local Share Account Program (LSA) managed by WTICDA through PADCED. Senator Lisa Boscola, State Representatives Jeanne McNeil and Zach Mako all supported the LSA and the nomination, along with Mayor Michael Harakal, Jr., the Lehigh County Commissioners, the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem, PA, and numerous Whitehall Township residents, including the First Presbyterian Church located on Front St. in the Historic District.

The approved map for the historic district is provided below, as approved by the National Park Service.

District Map



If you are interested in learning more about why Hokendauqua’s Thomas Iron Company Town is important, or about the National Register Nomination process, and the impacts of listing, please visit www.wticda.org or contact WTICDA at 484-245-4098 or email at wticda@gmail.com