



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

June 10, 2021

Andrew Henley, MLIS
Pleasant Hill Historians, LLC
P.O. Box 281
Edinburg PA 161160000

RE: # 2021PR04032, Cascade Park- Determination of Eligibility, New Castle City, Lawrence County

Dear Andrew Henley:

Thank you for submitting information about this property. It is our staff opinion that the resource is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This decision is conditional based on the information available to date. During future review of the nomination drafts or receipt of new details about the property, our office may find that the resource does not meet National Register criteria and the eligibility status will be changed. An eligibility evaluation is enclosed.

The next step in the nomination process, if listing is your goal, is the submission of a complete National Register nomination to our office. The latest versions of the nomination forms and instructions are now available at the National Park Service's website: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/how-to-list-a-property.htm>. The research, writing, and typing of the form are responsibilities of the applicant. It is essential that the information is accurate and includes all required material. Once an acceptable National Register nomination form has been submitted, we will schedule the property for review by the Historic Preservation Board, a committee of professionals and citizens-at-large from across the Commonwealth. The nomination will then be sent to the National Park Service for their consideration for listing in the National Register.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or preparing the National Register form, please contact Jenna Solomon at 717-783-9919 or jensolomon@pa.gov. Thank you again for your interest in Pennsylvania's history and commitment to this property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Rairigh'.

Elizabeth Rairigh, Chief
Preservation Services Division

ER/jds
enc.



Eligibility Evaluation and Nomination Guidance

Date: June 10, 2021

Name: Cascade Park

Resource #: 2000RE00745

Location: 1928 East Washington Street, City of New Castle, Lawrence County, 16101

National Register Criteria/Area(s) of Significance: Criteria A/Entertainment and Recreation

Cascade Park is locally significant under Criteria A in the Area of Entertainment and Recreation as an early 19th century trolley amusement park built, operated, and served by the Brinton Trolley line, and later the New Castle Traction Company. The park remained locally significant even after changes in ownership by multiple new trolley companies and the rise of the automobile era. Ultimately, the Great Depression led to the decline of the amusement park causing it to be sold to the City of New Castle in 1933 for its use as a public recreational park with some amusement concessions. Currently, the park continues to be owned by the City and used for active and passive recreational activities.

Period of Significance: 1891-****(between 1953 and present)

The period of significance begins in 1891, when the 70.9 acre park was purchased by Colonel Levi Brinton who began development of the trolley line and land, first known as Brinton Park. In 1897, the New Castle Traction Company purchased Brinton Park and renamed it Cascade Park, which it is still named today.

More information is needed to justify the end date for the park's significance and should be discussed with SHPO staff. The period of significance should end when the local significance of the park's use as an amusement park ends and is eclipsed by its local significance as a City Park with active and passive recreation. This would logically be sometime between 1953 and the mid-1980s when the amusement concessions were under the operation of Paul Vesco or possibly when the man-made lake was no longer used for recreation after the breaching of the dam.

Boundary:

The boundary appears to be the current parcel, which is also the historically associated 70.9 acre parcel, first purchased by Colonel Levi Brinton in 1891.

Specific Comments and Guidance:

- Additional research and documentation would be needed to support the justification of significance under Criteria C in the area of Landscape or Landscape Architecture or for the park's association with Landscape Architect Frank Blaisdell.
- This resource has not been evaluated for significance under Criteria D in the area of archeology. However, there is a high probability that archaeological resources are located within the boundary of the resource. Further archeological investigation, including but not limited to a Phase I Archeological Survey, may be necessary to locate all potentially significant archaeological resources.
- Comparative properties: What is Pennsylvania's context for other amusement parks especially those financed and built by trolley companies to encourage ridership?