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# Cascade Park 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Throughout the park today you will find eight signs that show images of attractions including the Comet, Midway, the Old Mill, the Falls, the Swimming Pool, the Dance Pavilion, the Theater, and finally the Lower Entrance. Each of these items has a description here within the pamphlet. Inside you will also find information on the National Register of Historic Places listing for which Cascade Park has been deemed eligible. This listing is very important in aiding in the preservation and maintaining of this park and its beauty.

This project completes Westminster College senior, Dylan Rodriguez's internship with Pleasant Hill Historians. For more information contact [info@phhist.com](mailto:info@phhist.com).

**GUIDED TOURS CONDUCTED BY  
PLEASANT HILL HISTORIANS**

# Sign Background Information

Cascade Park has a preceding history that is shown within the founder of its mission, Colonel Levi C. Brinton. After the Civil War, Brinton purchased the park, known locally as Big Run Falls and Sylvan Park. Brinton's origins date the park's historic significance as a trolley park tied as the oldest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This tour will be conducted backwards, as the Lower Entrance was the original entrance to the park, having been the drop off point for the trolley.

1. The Midway: The Midway hosted all the activities, food vendors, gift shops, and the two rides, the Comet and the Carousel.
2. The Comet: Previously known as the Gorge, the ride was built by Billy Glenn in the 1920s. In 1955, the rollercoaster was renamed the Comet. Glenn had a summer home beneath the rollercoaster.
3. The Dance Pavilion: The only original building within the park, the Dance Pavilion was built in 1897 and was the largest venue of its kind in Pennsylvania when it was built.
4. The Old Mill: Built as a log ride by Billy Glenn in the 1920s, the Old Mill offered rides along a circular path.
5. The Theatre: The Theatre offered an open-air venue for performance and show. The venue was replaced in the 1920s when the carousel was moved to its present location.
6. The Lower Entrance: The Lower Entrance ran alongside the manmade lake and offered a picturesque view of the water and floral adornments of the park.
7. The Swimming Pool: The first swimming pool, shown here, was built by Billy Glenn in the 1920s. It was replaced in 1970s.
8. The Falls: The Falls is the epicenter of the park and its development, offering the natural beauty.

# National Register of Historic Places Listing

**Cascade Park has recently been evaluated and deemed eligible for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.**

Through the work of Pleasant Hill Historians and interns from Westminster College, the park was re-evaluated in 2021. This evaluation reaffirmed the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's 2000 determination. This eligibility lasts for five years, during which preservation and planning funds are made available for the park's preservation.

The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's list of significant historic properties. At its core, National Register designation is only honorific. National Register designation would not restrict the City's ability to manage the Park. National Register designation can create an opportunity for flexibility in interpreting building codes and accessibility requirements and can provide access to funding but, again, unless it so chooses, does not affect how the City uses or manages the Park.

This year, the Lawrence County Historical Society submitted a grant to proceed with the listing of Cascade Park to the National Register of Historic Places. With a successful listing, the park will be eligible for these funds into perpetuity.