

Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update

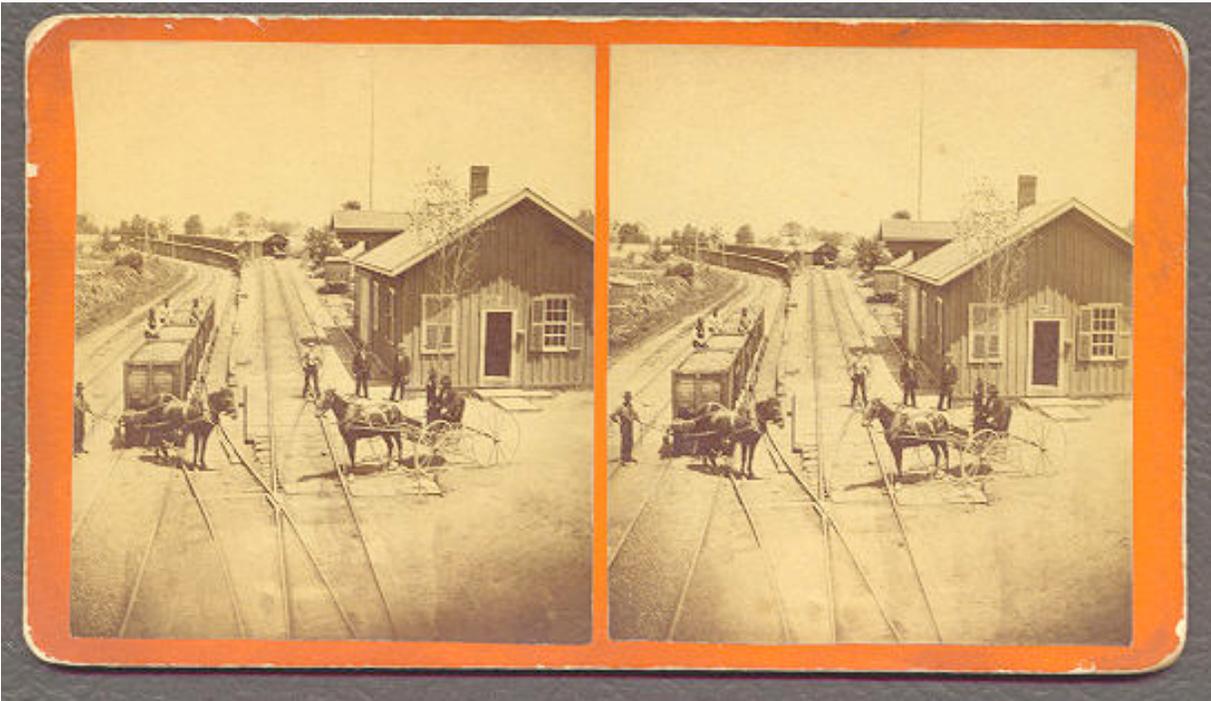
Chapter XVII - Historic Resources Plan

Wayne County's historic resources are identified in *Chapter II - Cultural Resources Analysis*. These resources are currently protected through the efforts of individual municipalities who have incorporated historic preservation criteria and historic districts into their zoning ordinances. Historic resources are also being protected by private initiatives and the work of several excellent historical societies and groups. This is the proper approach going forward as well.

There are four significant museums in the County, including the Wayne County and [Equinunk Historical Society](#) Museums in Honesdale and Equinunk, respectively, the [Dorflinger Glass Museum](#) in White Mills and the Farm Museum at the Wayne County Fair. The [Wayne County Historical Society](#), too, maintains the Bethel One-Room Schoolhouse on the County Farm in Berlin Township while the Equinunk Historical Society maintains Hill's Sawmill in Lookout.

There are also regularly scheduled exhibits at local libraries and other institutions where the historic resources of the County are interpreted for both residents and visitors, plus the [National Park Service](#) has a strong interpretive program through its facilities in Milanville and elsewhere. Private landowners maintain many other sites, including, for example, the Octagon School in South Canaan and the Land House in Milanville, as well as numerous additional sites. Many landowners consent to make these sites accessible for tours. Others are maintained by municipalities.

These include the Gravity Railroad station pictured below, owned by the Borough of Waymart.



D&H Gravity Railroad station in Waymart. Courtesy of www.daves-stereos.com/hensel.htm

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The D&H Gravity Railroad station is now known as the *D&H Gravity Railroad Museum* and is operated by the Waymart Area Historical Society. The building, also known as the D&H Depot, was rehabilitated in 2007, includes numerous artifacts and information on local history as well as that of the D&H Gravity Railroad. The Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is also home to the D&H Summer Open-Air Passenger Car 43, which is a replica of the Railroad's original summer passenger cars. The Society has recently acquired another property, the *Farview Brick House*, which was part of the original Farview State Hospital for the Criminally Insane complex and occupies land earlier a part of the Farview Amusement Company (a D&H Railroad division) that provided recreation and sight-seeing for visitors at the picturesque hilltop setting.



D&H Gravity Railroad station in 2009. Courtesy of Waymart Area Historical Society.

There are still other historical groups operating within the County, including the [Pleasant Mount Historical Society](#) which has acquired the former *O'Hara House* in Pleasant Mount. The Society plans to restore the building and make it a museum to preserve and display local antiques and historical items it maintains. The [Historians of Sterling Township](#) also operate a museum in Sterling. It maintains a website with a great deal of information and a number of photos of Southern Wayne County (example to right).



The remains of a chimney from the Shaffer Homestead in Varden (from [Historians of Sterling](#) website)

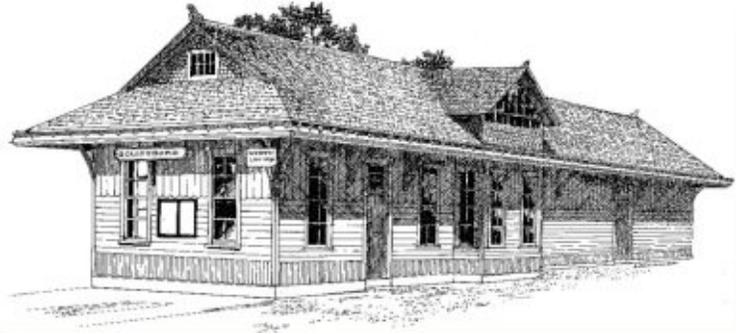
Still another historical initiative is the Gouldsboro Area Foundation's work on restoring the Gouldsboro Train Station in Lehigh Township. According to the [Wayne County Historical Society website on this project](#), the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad built a line of railroad through the area in the 1840's and opened up a large tract of virgin hemlock. In 1856, twenty-year-old financier Jay Gould built America's largest tannery in Gouldsboro, resulting in the town being named after him. The DL&W constructed the train station and ran passenger trains until 1950. The Lackawanna County Rail Authority is the current owner of this station.

The Gouldsboro Area Foundation began to restore the very dilapidated building in approximately 2005. It replaced the station's roof, sections of the Dutch wooden siding and some of the vertical

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siding. Local citizens have also, with the help of crews from the Wayne County Prison, repainted the old station in historically accurate colors, replaced over forty windows, and created replica gold lettered signs. Poplar doors identical to the original have been made and donated.

Next on the Foundation's agenda is the restoration of the interior. The Foundation plans to use the business office for historical exhibits and the freight room for community gatherings. It received a 2002 restoration award from the Wayne County Historical Society and represents a superb example of the best methods of historical preservation.



Gouldsboro Train Station
(from Wayne County Historical Society website)

The County has aided and should continue to support these efforts by offering technical assistance where feasible and providing model language and examples for use by municipalities when requested. The County should also, in reviewing land development plans, call attention to known historical resources and provide guidance to all parties in how to protect such resources to the extent practicable. Finally, the County can support the work of historical preservation by according recognition to the efforts of others, as it has regularly in the past. This should continue.