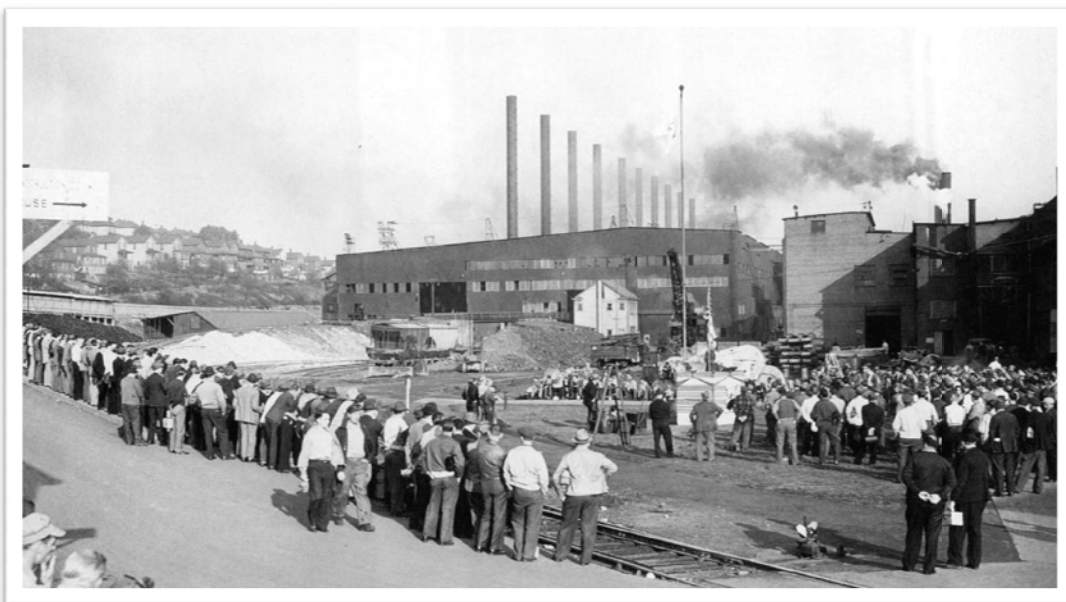


Butler County Steel Heritage Plan

December 2007



Steel Industry Heritage Corporation

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BUTLER COUNTY STEEL HERITAGE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This plan presents the results of a combined Feasibility Study and Concept Plan designed to explore both the need and the opportunity to incorporate Butler County, Pennsylvania into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. Butler County would become the eighth county served by Rivers of Steel. Based on a year of field research, this plan serves as the first step in developing Butler County's heritage resources as part of the larger National Heritage Area. As a State- and Congressionally-approved member of Rivers of Steel, Butler County will be eligible for both state and federal funds available to state and national heritage areas and their constituencies.

The plan to incorporate Butler County into Rivers of Steel complies with the regulations of both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States Congress pertaining to heritage areas. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Heritage Parks Program, administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, mandates that a heritage planning process be carried out either for creation of a new heritage area or for expansion of an existing heritage area. On the federal level, the U.S. Congress sets the policy for national heritage areas, which is then administered by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service. National Heritage Areas are created or expanded through Congressional legislative action, with determination based on evidence of the eligibility and quality of nationally significant heritage resources in the proposed region.

This plan for Butler County, along with the supporting documentary fieldwork and the public input endorsing its recommendations, fits within the mission and goals of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, as set out in the Heritage Area's authorizing legislation of P. Law 104-333. It fulfills the state and federal requirements relating to heritage conservation as directed by P. Law 100-698, signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, and expanded by President George H. W. Bush in 1989 under P. Law 101-122. It also accords with the goals described in the

proclamation by Governor Tom Ridge on April 29, 1996, establishing the Rivers of Steel State Heritage Area.

BUTLER COUNTY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Rivers of Steel enjoys dual status as both a State and a National Heritage Area. The Rivers of Steel Management Action Plan (MAP) became the basis for the Heritage Area's designation in 1996. It was accepted both by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

This original MAP encompassed six counties in southwestern Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland. The MAP's recommendations included the suggestion that three other contiguous counties be considered for inclusion as well: Armstrong, Butler, and Lawrence. Immediately after the Heritage Area's designation, Steel Industry Heritage Corporation (SIHC), in its role as management entity of Rivers of Steel, petitioned the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to conduct the study to determine whether to add those three counties to the State Heritage Area, but the state declined to add them at that time. However, Congressman John Murtha successfully amended Rivers of Steel's authorizing legislation at the federal level, adding Armstrong County to the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. This action prompted the Commonwealth to act, and, following completion of the required planning and field inventory of heritage resources, Armstrong County was added to the Rivers of Steel State Heritage Area in 1997.

Upon learning of Armstrong County's inclusion into the Heritage Area, Butler County leaders attempted to petition the Commonwealth for their County to be admitted also. Although the attempt was unsuccessful, there was still a desire in the County to participate in Rivers of Steel. In 2003 Judge Martin O'Brien from Butler County, determined to revive the idea of incorporating Butler into Rivers of Steel, was successful in gaining an official endorsement of the proposal from the Butler County Commissioners, which was forwarded to the County's state and

federal legislative delegations. In 2004, the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program (PHPP) awarded a matching grant to Rivers of Steel to develop a plan for admitting Butler County into the National Heritage Area.

Over the next year, the PHPP grant contract was enacted and match funds were raised and committed by Butler County.

In spring 2006, work to develop the Butler County Steel Heritage Plan began. SIHC, in consultation with Butler County leaders, formulated a cooperative agreement and scope of work to develop the plan. A Steering Committee was formed to include representatives from the County Commissioners' offices; the offices of the County's state and federal legislative delegation; heads of key public agencies and private non-profit cultural organizations in Butler County; interested and knowledgeable Butler County residents; and SIHC staff. The Steering Committee held its first meeting in early June 2006 and continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the project. A televised public meeting was held in fall 2006 to gather comments and information on resources. Over several months a team of fieldworkers visited every township and population center in the County, documenting sites, events and activities, and interviewing residents. The plan was developed in spring and summer 2007. Following a second public meeting in fall 2007 to gather comments on the plan from County residents, the plan was approved by the Butler County Commissioners with the recommendation that the Board of Directors of SIHC approve the plan and to submit it to the required state and federal agencies.

FIELD RESEARCH

In June 2006, field research was initiated to study Butler County's steel-related industrial, cultural, natural, and environmental heritage resources. Over the next 12 months, the fieldwork team visited every city and township in the county, documenting sites, events and activities through field notes and photography, and recording audio interviews with over 40 residents. They compiled a County-wide inventory of historic and current industrial sites and living cultural traditions. Based on their observations, they offered suggestions for programs and projects that could enhance the County's heritage development. Their reports, along with the database of sites and events they

documented, form the basis of the recommendations given in this plan and are appended to the plan as supporting materials.

STEERING COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC INPUT

Several Steering Committee meetings were held during the project year. During these meetings, SIHC staff updated the Committee regularly on the progress of the field research studies



and plan development, and briefed members on issues relating to the federal authorizing legislation introduced by U.S. Representative Phil English. The first Public Meeting was held in September 2006 at the Butler Commissioners Chambers, to acquaint the public with the project, and gather suggestions on interpretive themes, possible heritage projects and heritage sites, events, and activities that should be documented. This event was televised over

the local Butler County public cable channel. In early April 2007, the historic sites and ethnographic field reports, along with the sites and events database, were uploaded to the Rivers of Steel website in downloadable PDF format for review and comment. Steering Committee members provided suggestions, which were incorporated into the final versions of the reports. In late May 2007, SIHC staff presented the draft plan to the Steering Committee for review, and revisions were made based on members' suggestions. The second Public Meeting was held on September 20, 2007, at the Butler Commissioners Chambers to present the revised draft plan for comment, and the suggestions offered there were incorporated as appropriate into the final draft plan submitted to the state. A full list of meeting dates appears at the end of this document.

BUTLER COUNTY'S SIGNIFICANCE TO SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S STEEL HERITAGE

Butler County was carved out of Allegheny County on March 12, 1800. It was named for General Richard Butler, a Revolutionary War hero, judge, and state legislator from southwestern Pennsylvania. The County's land contained nearly

equal portions of Depreciation and Donation Lands — those lands either sold to or given to Revolutionary War veterans. In 1803, the County began establishing a county seat, ultimately choosing the present site of Butler City, a centrally located area where members of several Revolutionary War veterans' families had already settled. The town of Butler was incorporated in 1817. Originally, the County was quartered into the four townships of Middlesex, Slippery Rock, Buffalo, and Connoquenessing. Today, there are 33 townships and 29 boroughs. At Butler County's inception, its total population was 3,916. As of 2000, the most recent census, the county's population was 174,083.¹

Like other counties in the southwestern Pennsylvania industrial region, Butler County's industrial history is characterized by three distinct chronological periods. From its founding up to the mid-19th century, Butler County was typically rural and primarily agricultural except for charcoal-fueled iron furnaces established to smelt iron from local ore deposits to meet the settlers' needs for consumer goods (tools, wagon parts, etc.); even at this early stage, however, these furnaces were also beginning to supply rolling mills and foundries in Pittsburgh and the Mahoning Valley of Ohio. Often these early iron-making initiatives were undertaken by farmers to

supplement their main source of income. Because farming was the principal industry of Butler County through the first half of the 19th century, many small processing industries such as gristmills, sawmills, wool plants, and distilleries emerged to serve the local community, along with blacksmiths, saddlers, and wheelwrights, whose artisan skills were useful not only to agriculture but also to industrial development. Small-scale extraction of lumber and coal, two of the County's most

abundant natural resources, began for private and local consumption.



Long Trestle RR Bridge, Donegal Twp.



Marion Iron Furnace, Marion Twp.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Website for Butler County, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42/42019.html>

From the mid-19th century on, Butler County became increasingly tied into the growing southwestern Pennsylvania industrial system dominated by major iron and steel producers centered in Allegheny County. In symbiotic fashion, the region's industrialization accelerated the use of rail transportation, which had been introduced into the region in the 1850s, while rail transportation in turn encouraged greater regional industrialization by providing access to a ready market for its products. The rail industry itself was a market for iron and steel product.

During this middle industrial period, which began after the Civil War and lasted for about 100 years, Butler County became part of the metropolitan reach of the Pittsburgh Industrial



Armco Steel WWII Rally, Butler Twp.

Complex, its new industries financed both by indigenous investment from within the County and by new capital from outside the County. In the 1870s, the introduction of the Bessemer process into the region's iron and steel industry enabled the industry to meet the growing demand for steel rails and other metal

products. From the 1870s to the 1920s, the Pittsburgh region's iron and steel industry became the largest and most significant in the nation. When the demand for rails and railroad equipment lessened, the region's steel industry found new markets in building construction, military, and other applications.² Through much of the twentieth century, Butler County's steel-related industries included its major steel producer, Butler Armco, as well as specialty steel firms, manufacturers such as Bantam and Pullman-Standard that used steel in making road vehicles (including the prototype for the World War II military jeep) and rail cars, and an iron sintering plant, part of U.S. Steel's region-wide steel production network.



Bantam Jeep

² Eliza Smith Brown and Carmen P. DiCiccio, *Armstrong County Iron and Steel Survey* (Unpublished: 1997), 4.

This regional expansion of industrial iron and steel production and rail transportation created a demand for metallurgical coal and other minerals, such as limestone, to which Butler County residents responded by expanding coal mining ventures and other extractive industries. In the early 1870s, in addition to coal and limestone, another extractive resource, oil, became one of Butler County's important industrial products. Discoveries of natural gas deposits occurred as a result of drilling these oil wells. A fine example of Butler County's growing ties to the emerging Pittsburgh Industrial Complex was the expansion of the Allegheny County-based Spang Chalfont company into Butler County to take advantage of the potential of natural gas as a new fuel for iron and steel making. As in other southwestern Pennsylvania counties, industrial glass-making boomed as well, fueled by the newly discovered natural gas, along with local deposits of sand and sandstone. Farming also continued, often both contributing to, and being influenced by, the nearby industrial initiatives.

Butler County's era of rapid industrialization lasted until World War II, after which its iron- and steel-related industries, while still productive, reached a plateau and subsequently declined. While steel production continued in Butler County's urban center and the gas and oil industry remained an important part of the County's economy, much of the County returned to its agricultural base. The long interdependence between agriculture and industry helped to cushion the County's economy as its iron- and steel-related industry faded. Interviews with local residents indicate that farmers who had left their fields for jobs in the nearby industries went back to their farms; lands that had been taken over for industrial uses were returned to crop cultivation.



The cultural profile of Butler County follows the same pattern as the rest of the Pittsburgh Industrial District. The earliest Native American inhabitants included such tribes as Iroquois, Shawnee, and Delaware/Lenape. Following the

cessation of the Revolutionary War in the late 18th century and the subsequent Indian treaties, European settlers came into the area – English, Scots-Irish, and particularly Germans – and continued to move into the county through the first half of the 19th century. They established the farmsteads, built the early iron furnaces, and began the craft industries in communities such as Harmony, Slippery Rock, and Saxonburg.

The ethnographic research indicates that, as in other parts of southwestern Pennsylvania, the cultural mix broadened in the years just after the Civil War, with the regional expansion of steel-



SS Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Butler Twp.

related industry and the railroads. Along with laborers drawn from the existing nearby farming communities, immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, especially Italians, Poles, Ukrainians, and Slovaks, came to work in the County's steel communities, Butler City and Lyndora; in the steel-related industries in Winfield Township in the County's southeastern corner; and in the oil boomtowns such as Karns City and Petrolia in the northeastern

part of the county. These newcomers brought their customs, foods, arts, and skills to the County. In Butler City a small African American community also grew, primarily as domestic help for the industrial managers.

Even during the industrial years, much of the County remained agrarian in character. Interviewees relate that not only was farming influenced by the Industrial Revolution through the use of steam-powered equipment and iron/steel forged tools and materials to build modern barns, but some family farms in the area helped the steel and coal industries. Many area farms included sawmills or machine shops where farmers made items and structures that would then be used in the local industries. Some farmers also used industrial fuels for their own work, for example, mining coal or drilling oil or gas wells on their property and then using the fuel they extracted to fuel their homes and power their farming operations.

Because of this close inter-relationship between farming and industry, when the period of rapid industrialization began to end in the 1950s, while some workers left the County for jobs

elsewhere, most stayed and were absorbed into the older population. Unlike the large steel-making areas elsewhere in southwestern Pennsylvania, Butler County did not experience a steep decline in population. The County today still has a viable industrial presence, particularly oil and gas extraction/processing and steel-related metal industries, which provide a livelihood for some local workers. But agricultural occupations have once again become the primary economic pursuit for many residents.

Among the places in Butler County now where pockets of distinctive cultural traditions remain are Lyndora (eastern European) and Butler City (Italian). The once-pervasive German cultural influence can now be seen particularly in the architecture of the Harmony/Zelienople area and in Saxonburg.



Mennonite Meeting House,
Jackson Twp.

BUTLER COUNTY'S HERITAGE RESOURCES

The field studies of Butler County's historic sites and ethnographic resources show that the story of the County's industrial heritage is an important part of the story of the greater region. Furthermore, that Butler County's industrial heritage, while strongly embracing steel, is not limited to just one industry or ethnic group; it is a heritage of diversity. The studies present information on industrial and cultural heritage sites, events, activities, and tradition bearers from throughout Butler County. The research yielded about 40 hours of recorded interviews and over 250 digital photos. The database created from the studies currently includes over 150 sites and events. **Maps A and B** show the locations of industrial and cultural heritage sites identified thus far, in relation to the distinguishing features of the County's geography.

In this study, the research identified sites and activities that could be used to interpret all stages of Butler County's history, within various thematic frameworks. It found that several parts of the County have distinct thematic identities that

could form the basis for tourism and other heritage development opportunities. They include:

- Oil boom in the eastern communities,
- Steel and finance in the central area of the County,
- Extractive steel-related industry such as coal mining and stone quarrying in the northwest and southwest,
- Commerce and transportation in the south, west and northeast,
- Early industry in the southwest, and
- Agriculture through the heart of the County.

In addition, several projects are either planned or underway to re-use industrial sites and natural resources on the County's landscape, e.g., adapting abandoned rail lines, bridges, and river/creek-front lands for hiking/biking trails. These natural corridors can provide some of the connective physical structure needed for recreation, education and other heritage development. Some of them link to existing recreation areas such as Moraine State Park and other amenities (**Map C**). The heritage tourism

potential of hiking/biking trails and greenways can be enhanced through signage and by increasing the accessibility and attractiveness of heritage sites along the way to offer a multi-faceted experience for visitors.



Butler County Courthouse,
Butler City

There are seven individual sites in Butler County listed on the National Register of Historic Places: five in Butler City or Township, and one each in Harmony and Saxonburg. Three communities in the County have historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Butler City, Saxonburg, and Harmony. Within Harmony, there is also a designated National Historic Landmark District: Harmony Historic

District. Also within Harmony is a proposed Secular Historic Harmony District, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places but not yet designated.

Table 1 shows sites and districts in Butler County that are already listed on the National Register or designated as National Historic Landmarks.

Table 1

<u>National Register of Historic Places – Sites:</u>	<u>National Register of Historic Places – Districts</u>
Butler County Courthouse (Butler City)	Harmony
Butler County National Bank (Butler City)	Butler
Butler Armory (Butler City)	Saxonburg
Elm Court (Butler City)	<u>National Historic Landmark District</u>
Lowrie/Shaw House (Butler City)	
Passavant House (Zelienople)	Historic Harmony, Inc.

All the historic sites and districts need assistance in order to maintain, repair and promote their resources. Butler County’s inclusion in Rivers of Steel could offer new opportunities to call attention to the County’s industrial heritage, through nomination of additional sites to the National Register and the creation of new historic districts: in Zelienople, for example, or in Lyndora to interpret the heritage of the County’s eastern European steelworkers.

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission’s Historical Marker Program lists 17 historical markers located in Butler County as of 2007 (**Table 2**). More could be added to highlight industrial and cultural heritage, for example, a marker to commemorate the former “Red Row,” Lyndora’s eastern European millworker neighborhood.

Table 2

Pennsylvania Historic Markers

Old Stone House (PA 8 at PA 173, Slippery Rock Township – 2 markers at site)	Harmony (Main St. at Mercer St. in Harmony)
Butler County Courthouse (Butler City)	Harmony Mennonites (US 19 at Mennonite Meeting House, north of Harmony)
General Richard Butler (Plaque, Butler County Courthouse, PA 8 at Main St., Butler City)	The Roeblings (PA 308 / SR 2010, Butler Road in Saxonburg)
George Edward “Rube” Waddell (PA 488 near Fire Hall, Prospect, Franklin Township)	Zelienople – (US 19 in Zelienople)
Harmony Society Cemetery (PA 68 in Harmony)	Invention of the Jeep (Hansen Ave. in Butler City)
Original Harmonist Church (Harmony)	Rev. Richard C. Christy (455 Clearfield Road in Fenelton)
William A. “Uncle Billy” Smith (PA 356, 9 miles southeast of Butler, Jefferson Township)	Venango Path (PA 228 at Franklin Road, Cranberry Township)
1918 Influenza Mass Grave (Winfield Township)	George Washington (PA 68, 1.8 miles northeast of Evans City – Missing)

PLAN FOR INCORPORATING BUTLER COUNTY INTO RIVERS OF STEEL

The objective of this planning has been to answer the question: Should Butler County be incorporated into Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area? If so, how should it be done?

The inventory studies carried out for this project show the significance of Butler County to, and its close historical inter-relationship with, the steel-related industrial and cultural heritage of the greater Pittsburgh region, and thus support the proposal that Butler County be incorporated in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

The research indicates two main reasons that Butler County should be added to Rivers of Steel. First, Butler County, with its centrally located steel center and its clear connections to steel-related industries already interpreted elsewhere in the Heritage Area, provides an important additional window onto the

industrial history of the region as a whole and makes accessible to Rivers of Steel for the first time steel-making heritage resources in the northern part of what was historically the Pittsburgh Industrial District.

Furthermore, and specific to Butler County, the connection of the steel industry with the oil industry – steel companies establishing plants in Butler County to produce oil-drilling equipment; steel companies elsewhere in Southwestern Pennsylvania making pipe for transporting oil – an industry not previously explored within the Heritage Area, opens up new possibilities to Rivers of Steel for interpreting and promoting the region’s industrial heritage. With designation as a county in Rivers of Steel, Butler County will be eligible for increased technical and other heritage development assistance, while the entire National Heritage Area will benefit from the increased number of heritage resources to interpret as Rivers of Steel expands to serve a larger constituency.

ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives show the analytical process followed in considering ways to encourage Butler County’s heritage development, including all alternatives examined and the final recommendation.

ALTERNATIVE ONE

It would be possible to propose that, even though Butler County has been shown to have significant steel-related and other heritage resources, no further action needs to be taken at this time. This alternative was dismissed by all involved in the planning, however, due to the high degree of local support in Butler County for moving ahead quickly with heritage development.

ALTERNATIVE TWO

The decision having been made to consider immediate initiatives for heritage development in Butler County, the next question was to determine the best method to achieve this goal. One way would be to establish a new state and/or national

heritage area for Butler County alone. While theoretically possible, this alternative was dismissed, based on the assessment that, significant though they are in themselves, Butler County's resources would achieve a stronger statewide and national presence if developed in conjunction with an already existing heritage area in Western Pennsylvania.

ALTERNATIVE THREE

The next step was to consider which existing heritage area in Western Pennsylvania would be the most suitable for Butler County to join. The County is contiguous with two existing heritage areas: Oil Region National Heritage Area on the north and Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area on the east, west and south. A case can be made for attaching Butler County to the Oil Region, based on the County's important oil and gas industrial heritage resources in its northeastern quadrant. A clear case can also be made for joining Butler County to Rivers of Steel, based on the significant steel-related resources in the southern half of the County.

Further analysis, however, suggested that joining Butler to the Oil Region might reduce the County's options for developing its non-oil-related heritage resources, due to the Oil Region's more focused mission. Joining Butler to Rivers of Steel would not impede development of its oil and gas heritage resources. Rivers of Steel's mission already includes the mandate to interpret, manage and promote a wide variety of industrial heritage resources. Moreover, the field research inventorying heritage resources in Butler County revealed direct historical connections between the County's oil and gas industry and the steel industry in both the County and elsewhere in southwestern Pennsylvania. In short, Butler County's whole industrial economy was historically integrated into the Pittsburgh Industrial Region.

For both thematic and administrative reasons, therefore, it was determined that Butler County would be better served if joined to Rivers of Steel. This determination, however, still leaves open the possibility of partnership initiatives between Rivers of Steel and Oil Region to interpret and promote the oil heritage of the entire Western Pennsylvania area.

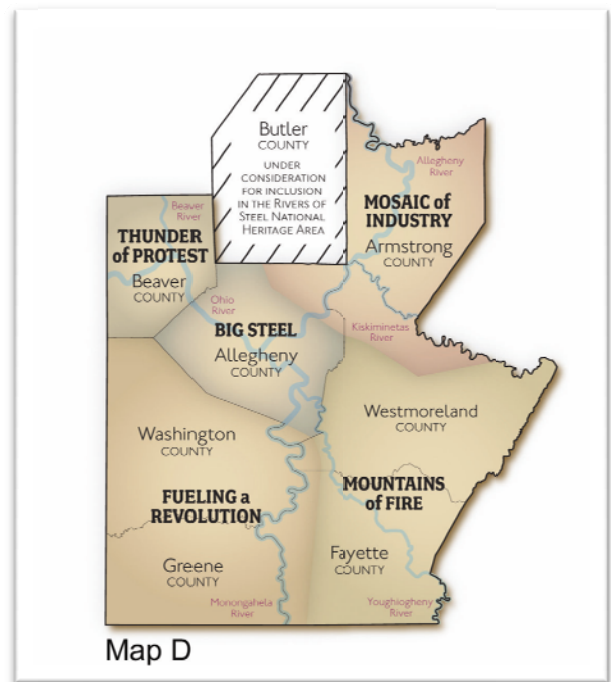
ALTERNATIVE FOUR

The conclusion that Butler County should join Rivers of Steel leads to the next question: What management structure would be the most efficient and effective?

Rivers of Steel is conceptually divided into Journey Areas. These are sub-regions of the National Heritage Area that exhibit some internal thematic unity and tie together communities and their heritage resources for interpretation and economic development.

There are currently five Journey Areas in Rivers of Steel (**Map D**). These are sub-regions within the Heritage Area that share physical contiguity and interpretive themes based on historical experiences. By design, Journey Areas cross county lines, thus encouraging greater intergovernmental cooperation, which is one of the stated goals for all Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania. In order for Butler County to find its place within Rivers of Steel, the County must become part of a Journey Area.

One approach would be to create a new Journey Area just for Butler County. This would be an option if the heritage resources of Butler County revealed a profile substantially different from the rest of the National Heritage Area. Research and analysis indicate that overall the heritage resources of Butler County are similar to those of the rest of the National Heritage Area, but show differences in relative weighting. For example, Butler County has a large steel-making community, Butler City/Lyndora, which was an industrial center similar to the steel towns of Allegheny, Beaver and Westmoreland counties. There were also other iron- and steel-making sites elsewhere in the County, even though, lacking major rivers, Butler County never had the long waterfront chains of interconnected steel plants characteristic of other areas of Rivers of Steel communities.



There is one major difference in Butler County's industrial heritage resources as compared to those of the rest of the Rivers of Steel area, already referred to in Alternative Three: the importance of oil. But the oil industry's history in Butler County is actually tied closely to that of the Pittsburgh region's steel industry, through the history of railroad expansion, the production of iron and steel drilling tools and pipe, and the iron and steel industry's experimentation with using oil as a fuel. Furthermore, the evolution of the use of natural gas, discovered in conjunction with oil production, as the fuel of choice for the glass industry – an industry that became important concurrently in both Butler County and the wider southwestern Pennsylvania region – places Butler County squarely within Rivers of Steel's broad historical industrial framework.

It is our conclusion that Butler County's heritage resources are more similar to, than they are different from, the heritage resources elsewhere in Rivers of Steel; thus it would be both beneficial and more efficient for Butler County to join an existing Rivers of Steel Journey Area. Furthermore, creating a separate Journey Area contained within one county would run counter to the Heritage Area goal of intergovernmental cooperation, since this would isolate Butler County from the rest of the Heritage Area. Therefore, creating a separate Journey Area for Butler County is not recommended.

ALTERNATIVE FIVE

How then should Butler County be integrated with Rivers of Steel's existing Journey Areas? One solution would be to fold Butler County into one. In order for this to work, the County's heritage resources need to offer opportunities for interpretation and development similar to those in the Journey Area it proposes to join. Based on thematic connections, three of the five current Rivers of Steel Journey Areas might be considered: Big Steel, Thunder of Protest, and Mosaic of Industry.

Big Steel Journey focuses on the steel towns that comprised U.S. Steel's empire in the northern Monongahela River Valley and includes the City of Pittsburgh, and parts of Allegheny, Westmoreland and Washington Counties.

While Butler County includes a steel center and several other steel sites with a strong historical connection to the Big Steel story, Butler County is geographically separated from the Big Steel Journey Area. Therefore it would be difficult in practical and administrative terms to integrate Butler County's heritage development with that of Big Steel, since heritage development requires prioritizing heritage site enhancement and creating tourism experiences based on the concept of site clusters.

The other two Journey Areas thematically connected with Butler County are also contiguous with the County. Mosaic of Industry, which borders Butler County on the east and southeast, currently includes northern Allegheny County, northern Westmoreland County, and all of Armstrong County. Thunder of Protest, which borders Butler County on the southwest, currently encompasses Beaver County and includes a small portion of western Allegheny County. Both Journey Areas offer interpretive possibilities that resonate with some of the heritage resources identified in Butler County. Mosaic of Industry interprets a wide array of steel and other related industries. Thunder of Protest also provides a thematic focus on steel-making, but perhaps more important for Butler County, it contains a connection to the early industrial initiatives of the influential Harmony Society.

It would be conceivable to annex Butler County to either Mosaic of Industry or Thunder of Protest. However, choosing one Journey Area alone could result in downplaying significant Butler County resources that would be better interpreted in the other Journey Area. Therefore, while both Mosaic of Industry and Thunder of Protest are attractive options, we do not recommend that Butler County be joined to only one or the other Journey Area.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The reasoning through the first five alternatives leads us to suggest that, based on the analysis of Butler County's heritage resources in terms of their locations and of the themes they can interpret and exemplify, an approach be adopted that modifies Alternative Five and includes a concept from Alternative Three. Our recommended alternative therefore has two parts.

Recommended Alternative – Part One: Incorporate Butler County into Rivers of Steel by integrating the County into two bordering Journey Areas – Mosaic of Industry (MOI) and Thunder of Protest (TOP) – since Butler County’s heritage resources show a clear relationship to specific themes in both these Journey Areas.

The southwestern quadrant of Butler County (northern Cranberry, Lancaster and Jackson Townships) relates well to TOP, primarily because of the important role played by the Harmonists in both locations, and could enhance interpretation of the TOP themes “Early Industry” and “The Harmonists.” An additional theme that Butler County contributes to the interpretative framework of both MOI and TOP, is “The Relationship of Agriculture to Industry,” since in Butler County, farming

historically influenced industry and industrial methods interacted with farming practices.

The eastern half and northwestern quadrant of Butler County (all other Townships) fit well with the structure of MOI, three of whose main interpretive themes are “Diversity of Industries,” “Cultural Traditions and Community Fabric,” and “Natural Resources and Transformation of the Environment.”

Map E shows the changes proposed to the current outlines of the MOI and TOP Journey Areas in order to include Butler County.



Recommended Alternative – Part Two: Facilitate joint programming between Rivers of Steel and Oil Region on Butler County’s oil and gas industries, to enhance the interpretation and promotion of Western Pennsylvania’s industrial heritage. This recommendation will satisfy the suggestion originally made in Alternative Three that a partnership be formed between the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and Oil Region National Heritage Area.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The scope of this initial planning effort was to determine Butler County's overall eligibility for designation as part of Rivers of Steel and to suggest the interpretive framework for integrating the County into the Heritage Area. While expanding the Heritage Area to include Butler County should have positive financial implications, we recommend that the planning and implementation of specific projects, including estimates of their cost and economic impact on Butler County, on the greater Pittsburgh region, and on Western Pennsylvania as a whole, be the focus for future phases of heritage development, once Butler County has been formally admitted into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN – HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT ZONES

Assuming adoption of the Recommended Alternative for incorporating Butler County into Rivers of Steel, the plan proposes a framework of Heritage Development Zones for carrying out work within the County, based on the themes of the two Rivers of Steel Journey Areas to which Butler will be added and on the identified clusters within the County of industrial, cultural, and natural/recreational heritage resources. **Map F** displays a composite of the identified industrial, cultural and natural heritage sites and resources, with a colored overlay of the proposed Heritage Development Zones. Below is the list of these Heritage Development Zones with their suggested interpretive themes:

- **Washington's Trail – Harmony Zone (southwest)**
 - Harmonists
 - Cultural Traditions and Community Life
 - Early Industry

- **Washington's Trail – Moraine Zone (northwest)**
 - Environment
 - Recreation
 - Diversity of Industry: Oil and Gas
 - Agriculture
 - Cultural Traditions and Community Life

- **Butler Central Zone**
 Diversity of Industry: Steel and Iron
 Diversity of Industry: Transportation
 Cultural Traditions and Community Life
 Recreation

- **Butler-Freeport Trail Zone (southeast)**
 Diversity of Industry: Steel and Iron
 Diversity of Industry: Limestone
 Diversity of Industry: Transportation
 Cultural Traditions and Community Life
 Environment
 Recreation

- **North Country Trail Zone (northeast)**
 Diversity of Industry: Oil and Gas
 Agriculture
 Cultural Traditions and Community Life
 Environment
 Recreation

- **Southern Gateway Zone**
 Diversity of Industry: Transportation
 Cultural Traditions and Community Life

HERITAGE PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the various Heritage Development Zones, this plan suggests a variety of projects for consideration. Heritage development requires cooperation among resources. Many communities in Butler County have heritage sites or events that could draw visitors from the greater region. A concerted county-wide and region-wide effort would greatly enhance the marketability of these assets. Throughout the planning process there has been a desire on the part of stakeholders in the County for increased cooperation between the various municipalities and heritage organizations. Rivers of Steel could foster greater communication among groups across a wider spectrum within the region, through peer mentoring and other methods.

Recommended projects fall into two areas: physical site development and interpretive programming. All projects address

either the county's industrial heritage or its cultural heritage or both. In all cases, some level of additional planning will be required in order to determine the level of funding and the specific tasks needed for realizing each project. Examples of factors that may need to be considered include: preparing site plans, resolving ownership issues, environmental reclamation, making broadcast-quality recordings, exhibit design, locating performance venues, land or building acquisition, visitor-readiness renovations, signage, forming partnerships with local cultural organizations, etc.

Some of the recommended projects could be considered for Early Action funding, if they are seen as high priority projects that must get underway immediately (e.g., saving a key endangered historic site), or as projects that could be easily completed with only moderate support and that would provide quick and visible benefits. Most projects however will be Long Range initiatives that will need more extensive planning work or require larger-scale funding to complete or maintain.

The recommended projects below are shown according to the Journey Area into which they fit – Thunder of Protest (TOP) or Mosaic of Industry (MOI) – and the interpretive theme (in *bold italics*) within that Journey Area to which that project seems best suited. Note that several projects may in fact interpret more than one theme.

Early Industry (TOP)

Knauf's Mill (Harmony)

Restore site in order to demonstrate grain milling.

Early iron industry tour (Zelienople)

Link the Basse Furnace in Beaver County with Zelienople historic homes and perhaps with West Winfield Iron Furnace.

Buhl House (Zelienople)

The site needs foundation and roof repair.



Knauf's Mill, Jackson Twp.

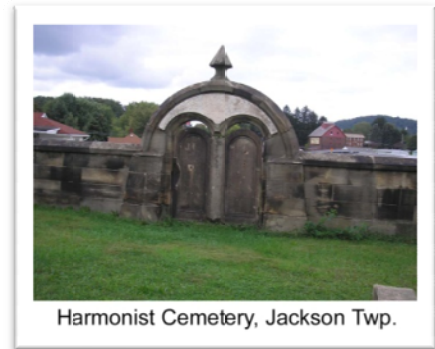
Harmonists (TOP)

David Ziegler Farmstead (Jackson Township)

Restore site to show the Harmonist methods of farming.

Harmony Society Tour (Jackson Township)

Link the Historic Districts and sites of Harmony in Butler County with Harmony Society sites in Beaver County: Old Economy, Beaver Falls, Bridgewater.



Diversity of Industry (MOI)

Steel Heritage Walking Tour (Butler City/Butler Township)

Develop a historical walking trail that meanders through several significant industrial sites in Butler City along the Connoquenessing. This trail would start near Father Marinaro Park on the South Side where it would link up with the Butler-Freeport Rails-to-Trails project as it enters Butler City. This Trail would follow the course of the

south bank of the Connoquenessing Creek and eventually cross over the creek to The Island neighborhood, where it would then follow the old course of the creek before it was filled in. The walking trail would meander past Pullman Park and the old Armco Steel/Bantam works, through the Commerce Park and up to the old Standard Car Building.



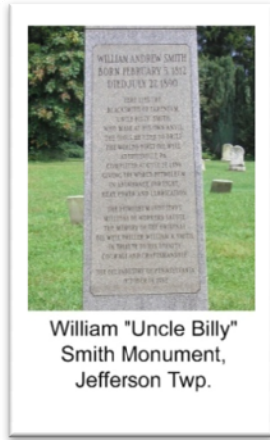
Swinging Bridge, Butler City

Steel-Related Technology – the Suspension Bridge (Jefferson Township)

Promote more widely several sites related to John Roebling, inventor of wire rope for suspension bridges, as part of the Saxonburg Historic District.

Iron Furnace GPS Scavenger Hunt

For Global Positioning System enthusiasts, create a tour in which visitors take their GPS systems and hunt for out-of-the-way sites, such as old iron furnaces in Butler County.



Oil Heritage Tours (in partnership with Oil Region National Heritage Area)

Develop guided bus tours or self-guided auto tours. Visitors would learn about the County's early oil history (e.g., Billy Smith historic marker and monument, Diviner Oil Well), then experience the northeastern boomtowns of the 1870s-80s and a drive-through of the modern refineries in those towns now, and end by seeing the Muddy Creek working oil well demonstration in Moraine State Park.

Muddy Creek Oilfield (Muddycreek Township)

Finish restoration of the site and enhance its interpretation of the oil industry.

Portersville Steam Show – Interpretation Enhancement (Muddycreek Township)

The Portersville Steam Show, through the connection of its industrial-era steam-powered farm equipment, could be eligible for funding from several sources such as the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program or the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Steam Show would like to do more interpretation, renovate and build more buildings on their property to preserve the equipment they have, and to publicize their events more widely (there are three Steam Shows a year).



Evans City Railroad Heritage Museum (Jackson Township)

This structure was once a train station, but is now abandoned. Plans include the purchase and renovation of the building, and interpretation in homage to the short-lived railroad line that ran through Evans City.



Mars Station, Adams Twp.

Railroad Tours (County-wide)

There may be opportunities to create new rail transportation tourism experiences highlighting the county's industrial heritage. Mars has a restored B&O station and rail car, for example, and a tourist train could be developed along existing rail lines to visit Saxonburg in the southeast and the oil towns of the northeast, using the successful Kiski Junction Railroad tour in Armstrong County as a model.

Mushroom Mine Tours (southeastern quadrant of the County)

Farmed in worked-out limestone mines, Moonlight Mushrooms was started by Louis Lescobara, French chef at the Fort Pitt Hotel. There are 100 miles of tunnels and 500 acres of rooms located near Worthington. While Worthington is technically in Armstrong County, the mine tunnels extend well into Butler County as well. Currently the company does not offer tours and has no interpretation. This could be an opportunity for Butler County and Armstrong County to work together on developing a tourism experience with the mushroom company. Perhaps there could be a visitor center with an educational film and exhibit, and/or a demonstration room in one of the mine tunnels. The facility could include a gift shop where merchandise and produce could be sold. Altman Trucking, a local firm, does sell Moonlight Mushrooms now, but it is three miles away and completely disconnected from the mines themselves. Proposals could be submitted to the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program or other sources for grant funding to develop the interpretation.

Grain Milling Museum (Franklin Township)

Roth Milling Company on LaFayette Street in Prospect, currently owned and operated by Paul Roth, could be saved and preserved as a working mill, to serve as a tourist destination with onsite museum-style interpretation.

Brick Kiln (Buffalo Township)

Restore and develop the site as a community heritage park.

Industrial Heritage Documentation (County-wide)

Continue research and produce publications and programs to document Butler County's history of diverse industries and present that history to the public. Examples of further research needed include:

Connection of Butler County's oil and gas industry to the broader industrial history of southwestern Pennsylvania, to answer questions such as: Did Butler County's natural gas deposits help to fuel glass-making plants in other southwestern Pennsylvania communities as well as those in Butler County?

Worker oral histories: Steel, coal, oil, gas, glass, and agriculture-related.

Cultural Traditions and Community Life (MOI)

Saxonburg Historic District (Jefferson Township)

Continued restoration work and additional marketing are needed. Saxonburg's heritage resources offer opportunities for immediate tourism enhancement. The town is already recognized as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places, especially for sites



related to John Roebling, who invented steel wire rope for suspension bridges. An active preservation group, the Saxonburg Historic Restoration Commission (SHRC), already exists. Work could be done in partnership with SHRC to improve the town's heritage resources. SHRC has a fine museum that only opens six hours a week. With outside assistance they could improve the facilities and offer more operating hours. SHRC is also currently in the midst of a fund-raising effort to renovate the decaying historic downtown; early assistance would help them in this effort. One of the historic buildings in

Saxonburg recently served as a bed and breakfast; though not currently in operation, it might easily be reestablished. The historic Hotel Saxonburg has a good restaurant that is decorated with historic pictures, drawings, and artifacts of the town's past. Lastly, each building in town is marked with a plaque stating its original owner and function. A walking tour has already been developed to follow these placards; this walking tour could benefit from wider marketing throughout the Rivers of Steel region.

Ethnic Neighborhoods Bus and Walking Tour (Butler City/Butler Township)

The Butler City/Lyndora area has many opportunities for tourism. The description by Lu Eisler, genealogist at the Butler Area Public Library, of the ethnic settlement patterns in the region – where and when different cultural groups settled in Butler – suggests the possibility of an ethnic neighborhoods tour through Butler City and Lyndora. People would see which areas were predominantly Italian, Polish, Belgian, Greek, African-American, etc., and would be able to understand the different social structures built by those groups that are still living markers of their traditions: the Italian Fraternal Society and Sons of Italy Clubs, the former buildings of the Franklin Glass Company where many Belgians and Swedes worked, St. John's Church in Lyndora where many Slovaks and Rusyns worshiped.

The tour could end with a lunch at a local ethnic restaurant, such as Natili's (a long-time Italian-American establishment), or Gutierrez's Mexican Restaurant (authentic Mexican food). Butler City/Lyndora could charge a fee for these tours as a way of bringing in outside revenue, and local organizations and businesses on the tour could benefit through selling food and souvenirs to tourists. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council's Large Grant program can be used for planning a tour of this type.



Farm Tours, Farm Stays and Farm Trails

The farm tours already started by Butler County Tourism and Promotion could be promoted more widely throughout the Rivers of Steel region. Tour packages involving overnight farm stays could also be developed; one example already started is the Alpaca Farm in Butler



Goldscheitter's Farm, Buffalo Twp.

County. In addition, other agri-tourism models could be applied, such as the "farm trails" concept developed by Handmade in America, located in Asheville, North Carolina. This organization has published a guidebook, "Farms, Gardens, and Countryside Trails," building on their successful "Craft Heritage Trails" self-guided tours, or the South Carolina National

Heritage Area's "Farm/Agriculture Trail." Another area for tourism development is the wider promotion of farm stands and the local produce and indigenous foods (jams, cheeses) they sell.

Community Transportation

Stage Coach/Cattle Driver Routes

Develop a tour interpreting early travel using Old Stone House and Drover's Inn.

Trolley Routes

Develop a tour to interpret industrial-era interurban travel, for example, focusing on the Harmony Line and highlighting the restored Evans City trolley station.



Old Stone House, Brady Twp.

Traditional Arts Galleries and Museums

Scroll Sawing Museum: Several members of the Blazin' Blades Scroll Sawers plan to start a scroll sawing museum. At this time, they all keep the artworks they create in the basements or other areas of their homes. They want to start a museum with a climate-controlled area for preservation, interpretation, and a space for a library. Funding sources such as the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program or the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts might help them acquire

land and build or renovate a structure to create a museum open to the public with regular hours.

Butler County Traditional Artists Gallery: The Associated Artists of Butler County's gallery currently does not feature traditional artists. A future project might involve introducing Butler County traditional artists to the Associated Artists group, and establishing either a wing of the current gallery or a new space to highlight their work.

Documentation of and Support for Local Traditional Arts and Artists

Field research documented several local traditional arts and artists in Butler County that could be eligible for grant funding, both to honor the artists and to make sure that their skills are passed on to future generations. Rivers of Steel can provide technical assistance to folk artists and folk cultural organizations in applying for grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and other funding sources. Some examples include:

The Blazin' Blades Scroll Sawers:

One member, Hobart Kenton, expressed interest in teaching his art to a younger woodworker, which might be supported through an Apprenticeship in the Traditional Arts; another member, master scroll-sawer Ernie Lang, may qualify for a state Traditional Arts Fellowship.

St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church: Father Gregory Long plans to encourage his church in Butler City to reintroduce traditional chant. Currently, they have a choir that sings, in four-part harmony, a simplified style of Byzantine chant. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Apprenticeship in the Traditional Arts grant might support having a master artist in chant come to St. Anthony's to teach traditional chant to members of the congregation.



**Scroll Sawing by
Ernie Lang,
Winfield Twp.**

Eastern European folklife: Document traditional arts such as pysanky Easter eggs; foodways, Slovak secular songs and Slavonic sacred music; early twentieth century Byzantine Catholic and Eastern Orthodox icons and altar carvings by local resident John Baycura.

Italian Musical Heritage: Local Italian folk musician Marco Caroccia expressed interest in expanding his list of performance venues to include ethnic festivals and folk cultural organizations in the rest of the Rivers of Steel region. A list of relevant events has already been sent to him and Rivers of Steel staff plan to continue working with him.



Agricultural Traditional Arts: Various state and federal grant programs can support maintaining and presenting the traditional arts, skills and events of agricultural communities: quilting, gardening, canning, tractor pulls, roping, riding, etc.

K-12 Education Projects

- Multi-disciplinary student project on community heritage
- Middle- or high-school student team projects to research local history
- Student involvement in local “Rails to Trails” projects – all levels
- Local history network between schools, libraries and County Historical Society
- Work with Dunbar Community Center or the 4-H Clubs
- Lessons/workshops in family oral history interviewing for high-school students
- Create Butler County “history trunk” with materials for middle-school teachers to use
- Bring a genealogist into the schools to present programs on family research for elementary- , middle- or high-school students

- Traditional foodways/ethnic recipes workshops in middle- or high-school cooking classes
- Workshops and mentorships between local folk artists and middle-school students

Natural Resources and Transformation of the Environment (MOI)

Connoquenessing Riverfront (Butler Township)

Develop the riverfront in Butler Township for recreational use.

Heritage Trail development (County-wide)

There are trail development projects underway throughout Butler County. When completed, the hiking/biking trail network will connect the County to states as far west as North Dakota and south to Washington, DC.

Butler-Freeport Trail: Due to its recent opening, the trail itself is in excellent condition, although constant maintenance requires ongoing financial outlay. Nearly every historical site in the township lies on the Trail. Historical markers with descriptions at those sites might enhance trail users' experience. Also, signs at trailheads informing users of nearby amenities such as the Cooper Station Restaurant would be helpful. Route: Located in southeastern Butler County. It parallels PA 356 from the borough of Freeport, Armstrong County northwest, connecting in the city of Butler at Father Marinaro Park. The completed 16-mile section has a smooth compacted crushed limestone base suitable for road bikes and passes through the towns of Laneville, Monroe, Sarver, Marwood, Great Belt and Herman.

Butler-Freeport Community Trail Council, Inc. P.O. Box 533, Saxonburg, PA 16056, Phone: 724-352-4783 Fax 724-352-2040. www.visit-butler-county-pennsylvania-pa.com/attractions/hiking-biking.asp

Washington's Trail: Develop and promote George Washington's Trail from 1753, in partnership with ten other counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Identify heritage sites along the Trail route to enhance its attractiveness as a tourism experience.

<http://www.co.butler.pa.us/butler/cwp/view.asp?a=1407&Q=604922>

Historic driving route: Northbound from Beaver County line -- PA 68 East to and through Zelienople to Harmony ~ Main Street in Harmony to Mercer Road and PA 19 ~ PA 19 North to Portersville ~ West Park Road North to PA 422 ~ PA 422 East to PA 528 ~ PA 528 North to PA 8 and PA 173 ~ PA 173 North to Slippery Rock and PA 108 ~ PA 108 East to PA 8 ~ PA 8 North to Venango/Butler County Line.

Scenic driving route: From Portersville North on PA 19 to West Park Road to Camelot Road and/or Cornelius Road to Roher Road. Meyer Road to Covert and North on Slippery Rock Road to Croll's Mill on Slippery Rock Road and PA 173.

North Country Trail: Continue developing the Butler County section of this inter-state trail that stretches from New York to North Dakota. Long-term plans could include connecting it with the Butler-Freeport Trail and from there hooking into the Great Allegheny Passage that links Western PA to Washington, DC. Route: Enters the northeast corner of Butler County at Parker in Parker Twp and goes west/southwest through the #95 State Game-lands in Concord Twp., into Clay Twp, then west to the Old Stone House at PA 8 south of Slippery Rock. From there it dips south into Franklin Twp, following the northern edge of Moraine State Park west along Glacier Ridge into Muddy Creek Twp. From there it bends southwest into Lawrence County.



Moraine State Park,
Muddy Creek Twp.

North Shore Trail (Moraine State Park):

Route: Starts at Moraine State Park's western entrance at the Bike Rental, then runs seven miles along the shore of Lake Arthur and connects with the North Country Trail at the Davis Hollow Marina.

<http://www.butlerwebs.com/allareas/bikes.htm#Trails>

The Relationship of Agriculture to Industry (MOI and TOP)

Media Series

Public programs, such as a TV or video series about the interrelationship between agriculture and industry in Butler County, could feature farmers whose farmsteads have incorporated or influenced industrial work: for example, those with oil wells on their premises.

Heritage Land Trust Conservation Program

A County-based program could be set up to supplement the assistance already offered through the Pennsylvania Farmland Easement Protection Program to local farming communities who wish to protect their farmlands from encroachment by predatory mega-developers. This program would establish a County-wide trust or grant program through which each rural Township would receive foundation grant money in order to purchase land that is under threat from developers.

HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Successful heritage development requires the combined efforts of a variety of partners, both public and private, such as state and county government leaders and offices, tourism bureaus, county-wide and local cultural and historical organizations, state parks and game-lands, annual festivals and other public events, trail committees, agricultural and environmental groups, recreational councils, and school districts and educational institutions.

Table 3 lists just some of the many organizations and agencies in Butler County that could participate as heritage development partners.

Table 3

Butler County Commissioners
Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Butler County Planning Commission
City of Butler

The Hon. Jason Altmire, U.S. Congress
The Hon. Phil English, U.S. Congress
The Hon. Robert P. Casey, Jr., U.S. Senate
The Hon. Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate
The Hon. Brian Ellis, PA State Legislature
The Hon. Jaret Gibbons, PA State Legislature
The Hon. Scott Hutchinson, PA State Legislature
The Hon. Daryl Metcalfe, PA State Legislature
The Hon. Richard Stevenson, PA State Legislature
The Hon. Jane Orie, PA State Senate
The Hon. Robert Robbins, PA State Senate
The Hon. Don White, PA State Senate
The Hon. Mary Jo White, PA State Senate

Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau

Butler County Heritage Center
Butler County Historical Society
The Glass Blowing Center
Historic Harmony, Inc.
Harmony Museum
Maridon Museum
Penn's Colony Festival
Saxonburg Museum
Zelienople Historical Society

Jennings Environmental Education Center
Moraine State Park
Pennsylvania State Game Lands

George Washington's Trail Committee
Butler-Freeport Trail Committee
North Country Trail Association, Butler County Chapter

The Big Butler Fair
Butler Farm Show
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Butler County School District
Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School
Karns City Area School District
Mars Area School District
Moniteau School District
Seneca Valley School District
Slippery Rock Area School District
South Butler County School District
Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
ARIN Intermediate Unit 28
Butler County Community College of Pennsylvania
Slippery Rock University

MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

November 10, 2005 – Project Inauguration
June 13, 2006 – Steering Committee #1
July 7, 2006 – Bantam Building Planning Meeting
August 29, 2006 – Steering Committee #2
September 26, 2006 – Public Meeting #1 (shown over local cable TV)
January 9, 2007 – Steering Committee #3
April 18, 2007 – Steering Committee #4
July 10, 2007 – Steering Committee #5
July 26, 2007 – SIHC Board/Steering Committee joint meeting
September 20, 2007 – Public Meeting #2

There were two scheduled public meetings during which comments were gathered, and the public had input during Steering Committee meetings. In addition, the field researchers conducted interviews with over 40 residents in large and small towns throughout the County about their vision for heritage development in their communities.

RESOLUTION 2007-16
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF BUTLER

WHEREAS, the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and the County of Butler have partnered on the development of the Butler County Steel Heritage Plan, hereinafter, "The Plan", to determine whether Butler County should be included into the Rivers of Steel National and State Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress by Representative Phil English and Senator Arlen Specter to add Butler County into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, and that legislation is advancing through both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, the findings of The Plan show that Butler County has a rich industrial and cultural heritage that is associated with Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Industrial District, supporting the argument that Butler County should be included into the Rivers of Steel National and State Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of The Plan are to add Butler County into the Thunder of Protest Journey Area and the Mosaic of Industry Journey Area of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, Butler County will partner with the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, managers of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, to help conserve, promote, protect and develop the County's industrial, cultural, natural and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, the County of Butler encourages the citizens, communities, local organizations and businesses to partner with SIHC to help conserve, promote, protect and develop the County's industrial, cultural, natural and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Butler endorses The Plan and its recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Butler requests the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to approve The Plan and to amend the boundaries of the Rivers of Steel State Heritage Area to formally include Butler County.

ATTEST:



William S. O'Donnell
Director of Admin./Chief Clerk

Date: 10/31/07

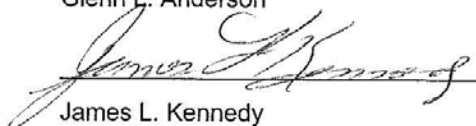
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Scott K. Lowe, Chairman



Glenn L. Anderson



James L. Kennedy

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



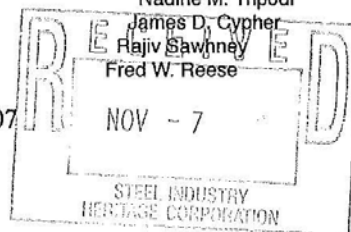
**The Redevelopment Authority
of the City of Butler**

MEMBERS

George Michael Kelly, Chairman
Nadine M. Tripodi

James D. Cypher
Rajiv Sawhney
Fred W. Reese

November 5, 2007



Ms. Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, PA 15120

RE: H.R. 1083
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
Butler County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Carlino:

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler strongly endorses the effort for Butler County to be included in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

Effective coordination through a collaborative effort between public and private organizations is crucial to the success of this initiative. We will assist in this process by offering the following:

- Assistance with finding and securing a site
- Assistance with identifying and writing grants
- Continuing our public support for this initiative through the County

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF BUTLER



Perry O'Malley
Executive Director

Cc: RACB Board

114 Woody Drive • Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
Phone: 724-283-0116 • Fax: 724-283-2522
Email: racb@zoominternet.net
www.racb.net



November 6, 2007

Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120

Dear Sir:

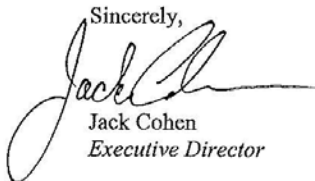
I am writing to support Butler County's inclusion in Rivers of Steel. We were honored to hear that H.R. 1083, was passed in the House and hope the Senate and Congress will follow suit. Designating Butler County as a steel heritage destination will spur tourism, economic development and promote job creation.



This is a picture of a Bantam Jeep being put through maneuvers by the U.S. Army during World War II. The Butler plant of the Bantam Car Company is credited for producing the first Jeep. Bantam was awarded a contract to build the Jeep. Due to the limited production facilities of the company, Ford and Willys were awarded large contracts to mass produce the Jeep.

Butler County has a rich steel industry and the City of Butler has been an important part of the greater southwestern PA steel region for over 100 years. Being part of Rivers of Steel will help us interpret the heritage of Armco, Standard Steel Car Company, AK Steel, the American Bantam Car Company, and the Pullman Standard Building. Among the most popular steel products produced in the county were steel cars. The Bantam Car Company created the world's first Jeep, pictured at left.

Thank you for considering this important plan. We look forward to working collaboratively with Rivers of Steel to interpret the steel heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Jack Cohen
Executive Director

310 East Grandview Avenue | Zellenople, PA 16063 | Toll-free: 866.856.8444 | Phone: 724.234.4619 | Fax: 724.234.4643
www.visitbutlercounty.com

Butler County Board of Commissioners

Planning Commission

124 W. Diamond Street, PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003-1208
Phone 724.284.5300 Fax 724.284.5315 TDD 724.284.5473

Commissioners

Scott K. Lowe, *Chairman*
Glenn L. Anderson, *Vice Chairman*
James L. Kennedy, *Secretary*



Director of Planning

David P. Johnston

November 7, 2007

Mr. Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, Pa. 15120

RE: Butler County Inclusion in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage
Area
Letter of Support

Dear Augie:

The Butler County Planning Commission has been involved from the inception in efforts to include Butler County in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. I have served as a Steering Committee member through the process of a combined Feasibility and Concept study designed to explore the need and the opportunity to incorporate the County as the eighth County into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

The Plan prepared, along with the supporting documentary fieldwork and public input endorsing its recommendations, fulfill both State and Federal requirements. As you know, the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area was created in 1996. The original plan recommended that Armstrong, Butler, and Lawrence counties be included in the Heritage Area, but the State declined to admit them at that time.

We are grateful that the efforts of a number of people, including yourself, have put Butler County into a position of possibly be included into this Heritage Area. We feel that this designation would help to encourage community revitalization through cultural tourism, historic preservation, natural and recreational resource conservation, cultural and educational programs and related economic development.

We strongly encourage both State and Federal officials to amend the Rivers of Steel National Heritage to include Butler County, and look forward to future working relationships with your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David P. Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "D" and "J".

David P. Johnston
Planning Director

BUTLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Serving the local business community since 1896.

November 8, 2007

Mr. Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, Pa. 15120

RE: Butler County Inclusion in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
Letter of Support

Dear Augie:

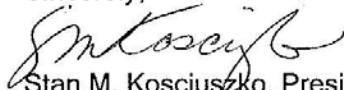
The Butler County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to have been involved in the initial efforts to include Butler County in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. We are pleased that the Rivers of Steel national Heritage Area and the County of Butler have partnered to develop the Butler County Steel Heritage Plan.

This Plan shows that our county, Butler, has a rich industrial and cultural heritage, which is closely associated with Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Industrial District. We therefore support the idea that Butler County should be included into the Rivers of Steel National and State Heritage Area and urge State and Federal officials to amend the current designation.

We are grateful that the efforts of a number of people, including yourself, have put Butler County into this position. The Butler County Chamber of Commerce strongly feels that this designation will help to encourage community revitalization through cultural tourism, historic preservation, natural and recreational resource conservation, cultural and educational programs and related economic development.

Partnerships such as this are rare, and we look forward to working with you in the future. I am encouraged by the progress, which has already occurred, and wish your committee much success.

Sincerely,



Stan M. Kosciuszko, President
Butler County Chamber of Commerce

101 E. Diamond Street · Morgan Center, Lower Level - Suite 116 · P.O. Box 1082 · Butler, Pennsylvania 16003-1082
724.283.2222 · fax 724.283.0224

info@butlercountychamber.com www.butlercountychamber.com



Mr. Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
6233 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120

November 9, 2007

Dear Mr. Carlino,

The Washington's Trail - 1753 Committee endorses and supports the plan to incorporate Butler County into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. The industrial, cultural and steel legacy of Butler County is compatible with the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area and supports the natural extension of that Heritage Area. The plan as presented will enhance the historic conservation, scenic driving trails, recreational facilities and tourism of Southwestern Pennsylvania. We urge the adoption of the plan and its' recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

Martin J. O'Brien
Chairman

Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau
310 East Grandview Avenue | Zelienople, PA 16063 | Toll Free: 866-856-8444

Dr. Orvan B. Peterson and Joan T. Chew
216 Center Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

Phone 724.287.2842

vanjo@zoominternet.net

November 13, 2007

Mr. Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead PA 15120

Dear Mr. Carlino,

We are writing a joint letter in support of Butler County to be a part of Rivers Of Steel.

As a former County Commissioner and County Treasurer, I am engaging in a project the County should have taken part in years ago. Also, my husband, a former professor at Butler County Community College, worked to help the County become a part of this Heritage District.

Together we attended as many meetings as possible to lend our support and help bring the awareness to the people of our County as to the great merit this designation would mean for us. Additionally my husband, Dr. Van Peterson, used his skill to edit and rewrite passages of Butler County's application for inclusion into the Rivers of Steel.

Butler County is the fastest growing County in the western part of Pennsylvania. Rivers of Steel can only benefit the region to help keep this momentum going.

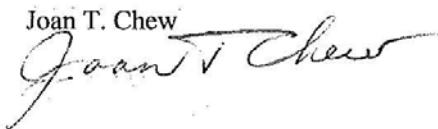
We wish to add our dedicated voices to the many who are interested in the success of this application.

Sincerely,



Dr. Van Peterson

Joan T. Chew



GEORGE J. KELLY, JR.
Accounts & Finance

JAMES W. KRAUS
Public Safety

MITCH UFNER
Streets & Public Improvements

KATHY D. KLINE
Parks/Recreation & Public Property

GRETCHEN D. EHLMAN
Controller

RALPH L. D'ANTONIO
Treasurer



CITY OF BUTLER
MARGARET D. STOCK
MAYOR

ROBERT L. BREHM
City Clerk

JAMES P. COULTER
City Solicitor

JOSEPH L. GRAY, P.E.
Municipal Engineer

JOHN E. EVANS
Zoning & Code Officer

TIMOTHY F. FENNELL
Chief of Police

LARRY W. CHRISTY
Fire Chief

November 16, 2007

Augie Carlino
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
623 East 8th Avenue
The Bost Building
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120



Dear Mr. Carlino,

On behalf of the Council and the City of Butler, I want to express our unconditional support for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage project. This project is an exciting endeavor linking Butler's industrial past to our future.

The long list of industrial contributions for the Butler Area is impressive. We are honored to be part of the legacy of industrial firsts in Western Pennsylvania. This vital piece of our history should be celebrated, preserved, and shared.

We are looking forward to participating in this wonderful venture.

Sincerely,

Margaret D. Stock
Mayor City of Butler

City of Butler, 140 West North Street, Butler, PA 16001-5298
Phone: (724) 285-4124 • Fax Line: (724) 285-6880

Southeast Butler County Historic Resources, Inc.
124 Keasey Road
Cabot, PA 16023
724-816-4913
petedren@nauticom.net
www.saxonburglocalhistory.com

To Whom It May Concern,

As members of the Butler County Rivers of Steel Steering Committee we are urging our elected officials to pass any and all bills pertaining to the inclusion of Butler County in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. Rivers of Steel being an organization that works to preserve the history of industry and the communities that developed as a result of those industries in Western Pennsylvania should have Butler County within its realm.

We are local historians in the Southeast Butler County Area and strongly support any referendum that would include Butler County. Early industries here in Southeast Butler County were logging and sawmills. In the early 1800's card mills, tanneries and distilleries came on board. By the mid-1800's iron works and furnaces as well as outlets for farm implements began to flourish. The late 1800's saw the oil boom in Butler County. Glass, mushroom, coal, limestone and the cement industries began plodding their way into the 20th Century. Soon tourism in the form of an amusement park at Lernerville and the spas supplied by spring water rose on the horizon. In the mid-1950's U.S Steel placed a sintering plant in Clinton Township that made the best sinter in the world. Folks came from countries worldwide to view and train in the making of sinter and a specialty product called sinflux.

Some of these industries still exist in Southeast Butler County some have long disappeared. None the less Butler County is rich in basic industries, support industries and the community development around these industries. These are the reasons we know that Butler County would be an asset to the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

Peter M. Watt, President

Peter M. Watt President

Drenda Gostkowski, Researcher.

Drenda Gostkowski

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August R. Carlino, President and CEO,
Steel Industry Heritage Corporation
Joan Chew, Butler County Commissioner, retired
Jack Cohen, Executive Director,
Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau
David Dixon, Department of History,
Slippery Rock University
Doris J. Dyen, Director of Cultural Conservation,
Steel Industry Heritage Corp.
Drenda Gostkowski, Local historian
David Johnston, Director, Planning Commission,
County of Butler
Ellen W. Kight, PA Department of Community
Economic Development, ex officio
Stan Kosciuszko, Butler County Chamber of Commerce
Scott K. Lowe, Butler County Commissioner
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Marci Mustello, Administrative Assistant,
Hon. Phil English, U.S. Rep.
Jack Oris, George Washington's Trail Committee
John Ruch, Historic Harmony Museum,
Historic Harmony, Inc.
Ray Steffler, Administrative Assistant,
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David E. Todd, Armco Executive, retired
T. Edward Wadding, Butler County Historical Society
Peter M. Watt, Local historian

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