



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

PA State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO)

Guidelines for Researching and Preparing Identification Level Documentation for Airports and Airfields in Pennsylvania

ISSUED OCTOBER 2024

PA SHPO
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Airports and Airfields in Pennsylvania

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Introduction

Guidelines for Researching and Preparing Identification Level Documentation for Airports and Airfields in Pennsylvania contains guidance and tools to assist in the research and identification level documentation for airports and airfields in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in Pennsylvania (PA SHPO) uses these guidelines to evaluate the integrity of air-related resources. Resources that retain integrity may require evaluation level documentation to assess National Register eligibility.

Note: This document does not address the evaluation level documentation. Evaluation level documentation requires a more comprehensive effort including preparation of a physical description, historical narrative, and National Register eligibility assessment. Evaluation level documentation is usually prepared by a historic preservation consultant.

The Table of Contents is linked to the many sections in the *Guidelines* for easier navigation; simply put your mouse over the section in the Table of Contents chart, hold down the control button, and click with the mouse. Items of special note, like for particular types of sites, are called out in highlighted text boxes as a reminder. For online viewers, links throughout the report will deliver you to the appropriate website.

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Information and Attachments Required for Submittal

As part of ongoing efforts to facilitate initial documentation of airports and airfields, SHPO requires the following information and related attachments be uploaded to [PA-SHARE](#). These attachments can be combined into a single pdf for ease of viewing.

- Map showing the current boundaries of the airport.
- A site plan that includes the names of buildings and runways, dates of construction, and any removals/additions to buildings and runways. Modern features (buildings and features less than 50 years old) should be noted.
- Color photographs of all buildings and features keyed with numbers to a photo location map or site plan.
- Historic and current aerial mapping comparisons to demonstrate changes over time.
 - Historic and current aerials for Pennsylvania are found online at [PennPilot](#).
- Any available historic or current photographs, birds-eye-view photographs, or mapping to demonstrate changes to the configuration of the airport.
 - [Abandoned & Little-Known Airfields \(airfields-freeman.com\)](#) is a great resource for historic-era airfields in Pennsylvania organized by region.
- Any available original plans or master plans.
- Any known history of the property and any changes over time. The narrative should include the reason for the construction of the airport, what traffic it historically served and/or continues to serve, and how the property has been altered over the years (removal, addition, alteration to any buildings and runways). The discussion of changes over time is especially useful in assessing integrity.

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Example Documentation and Attachments

Map Showing the Current Boundaries of the Airport

Beaver County Airport (BVI) Historic District
Chippewa Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania

Site Plan (Item 34)



Figure 1: Aerial image showing the resource boundary (red) and general site plan (Google Earth 2023).

09/2013

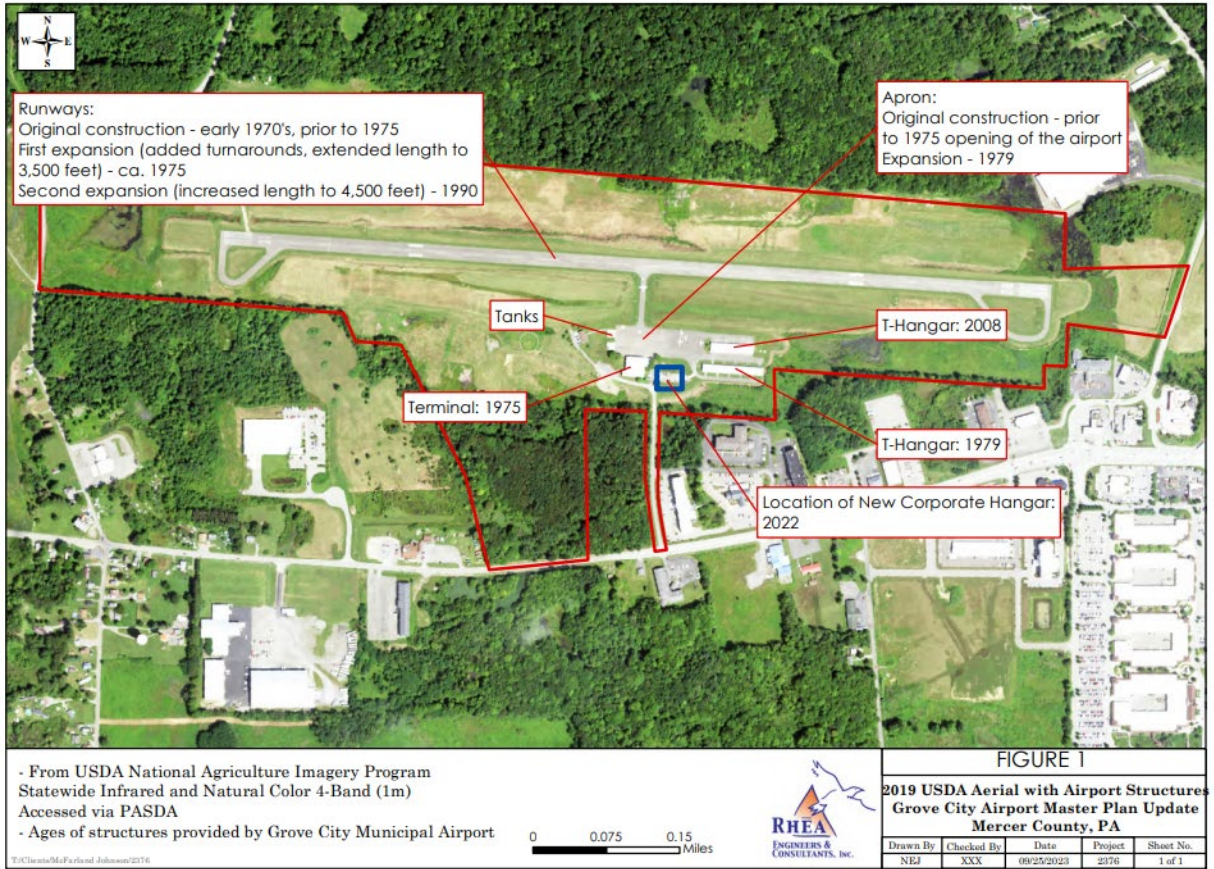
PA Historic Resource Survey Form 33

Beaver County Airport (Resource #2024RE01529) Site Plan

PA SHPO
Guidelines for Survey and Recordation of Airports and Airfields in Pennsylvania



Hazleton Municipal Airport (Resource #2018RE03389) Site Plan



Grove City Municipal Airport (Resource # 2023RE08174) Site Plan. This site plan is useful as it includes notations on dates of construction and expansion.

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Arnold Palmer Regional Airport Building Inventory – September 2024

Building Number	Building	Owner/Tenant	Approximate Year Constructed
1	T-hangars	WCAA	2007
2	T-hangars	WCAA	2009
3	T-hangars	WCAA	2009
4	T-hangars	Anthony Ferrante	2011
5	Conventional Hangar	X-Coal	2012
6	Conventional Hangar	R.M. Scaife	1986
7	Storage Hangar	Vee Neal Aviation	1973*- rehabilitated in 2023
8	Conventional Hangar	S.P. Mellon	1973*
9	Conventional Hangar	L.J. Aviation	1973*- some rehab in 2020
10	Conventional Hangar	Vee Neal Aviation	1970*
11	Conventional Hangar	Vee Neal Aviation	1978
12	Terminal Building	WCAA	1998-reconstructed
13	Air Traffic Control Tower	WCAA	1981
14	Equipment Storage Building	WCAA	2023
15	Maintenance Building	WCAA	1983
16	Water Treatment Pump Station	-	1973*

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (2024RE01787) mapping and corresponding table, showing location of buildings and dates of construction. The asterisks denote buildings 50 years in age or older.

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Color photographs of all buildings and features

Photographs

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Photo 1: Northwest end of the Terminal Building at left, with Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at center, view west.

Photographs

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Photo 15: Southwest (far left) and southeast (center) elevations of the Terminal Building, showing the apron, view northeast.

State College Regional Airport. The photographs should show all elevations of the buildings as well as landscape features such as runways. Captions of what is shown in the photograph should be provided.

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Site Plan with Photo Key



Figure 3: Aerial image showing the site plan and photo key (Google Earth 2023).

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PA Historic Resource Survey Form 35

Beaver County Airport (Resource #2024RE01529) Site Plan Showing Photo Locations

Photo Locations



Hazleton Municipal Airport (Resource #2018RE03389) Site Plan Showing Photo Locations

Historic and Current Aerial Comparisons

Hazleton Municipal Airport
Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

Key # _____
ER# _____



Figure 7: Detail of 1959 aerial photograph of Hazleton Municipal Airport, showing extant buildings (from left, MB-06, MB-07, MB-08, and MB-13) (USDA 1959).



Figure 8: 1969 aerial photograph, showing two runways and buildings along the taxiway (USDA 1969).

Hazleton Municipal Airport
Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

Key # _____
ER# _____

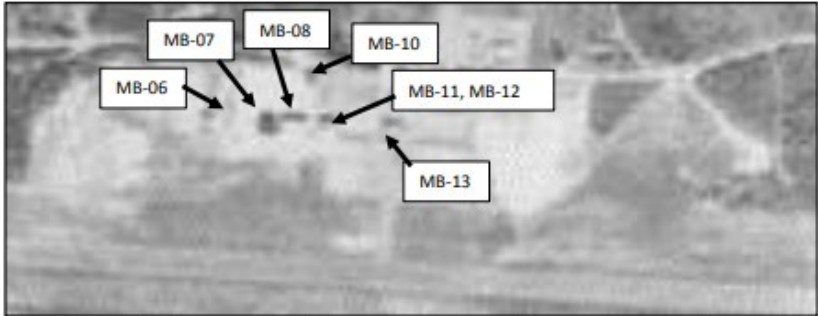


Figure 9: Detail of 1969 aerial photograph, showing addition of MB-11 and MB-12 buildings to the west of the terminal (USDA 1969).

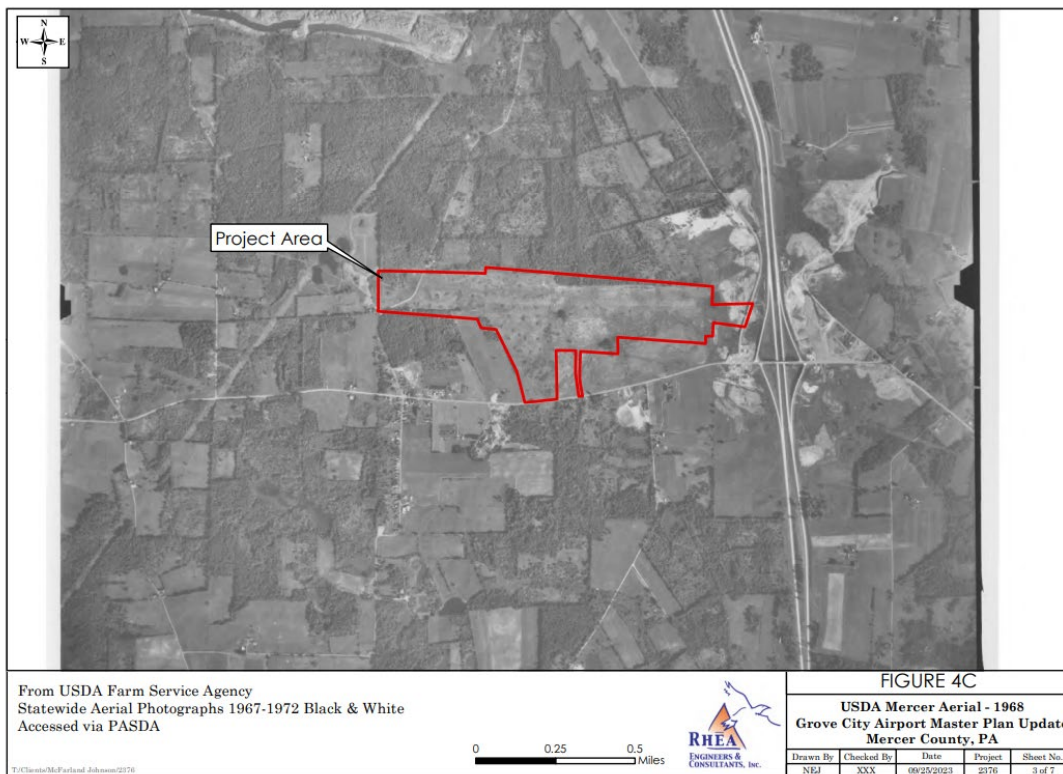
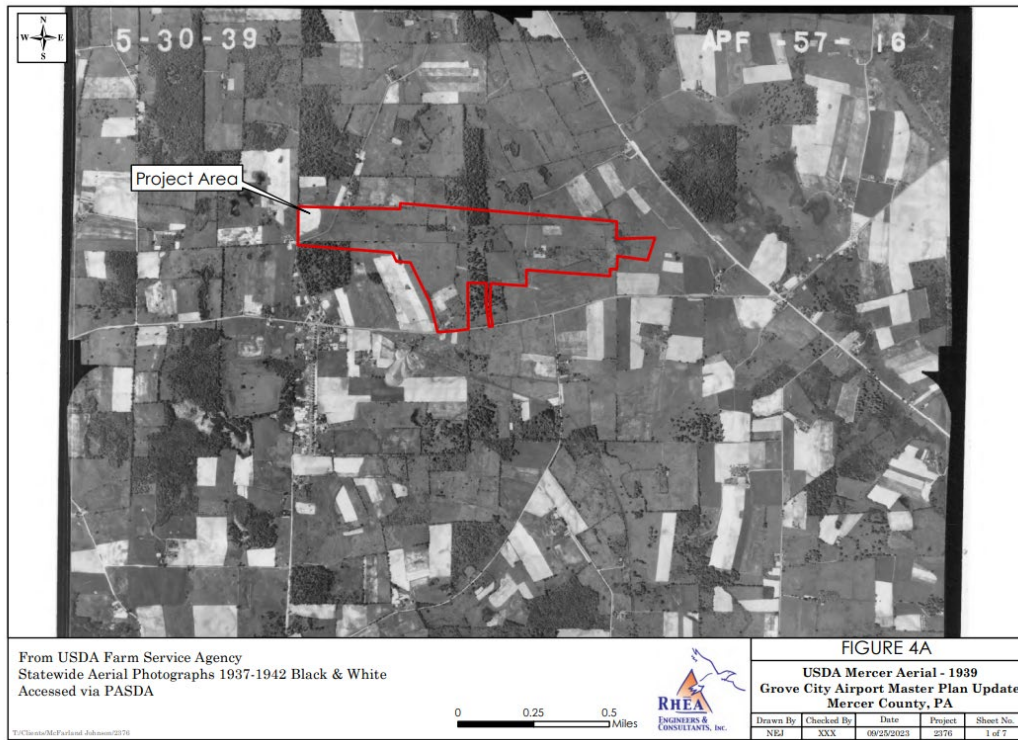


Figure 10: 1993 aerial photograph, showing runways and additional hangars to east of terminal building. The second runway has started to revegetate by this time (Google Earth 1993).

Hazleton Municipal Airport (Resource #2018RE03389) Historic Aerials. Note the aerials are zoomed to show the evolution of the runways and built environment over the various years. Buildings that appear on the historic aerials are also called out with labels.

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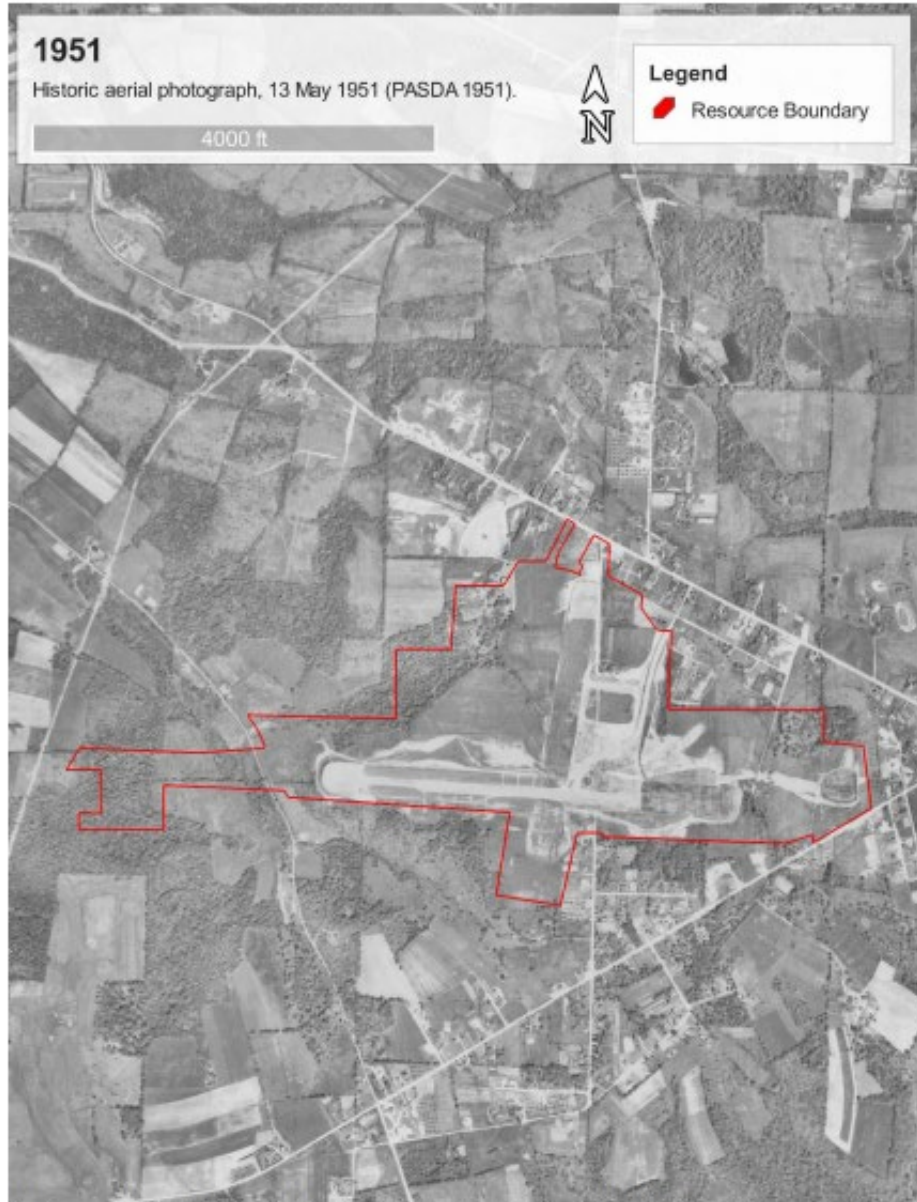


Grove City Municipal Airport (Resource # 2023RE08174)

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Beaver County Airport (BVI) Historic District
Chippewa Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania

Key # _____
ER# _____



Map 3. 1951 aerial photograph showing the resource boundary (red) (PASDA 1951).

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Beaver County Airport (Resource #2024RE01529) Site Plans. Again, those aerials that are zoomed to the resource (depending on the resolution of the historic aerial photograph) are most useful.

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Historic-era and Current Photographs

Hazleton Municipal Airport
Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

Key # _____
ER# _____

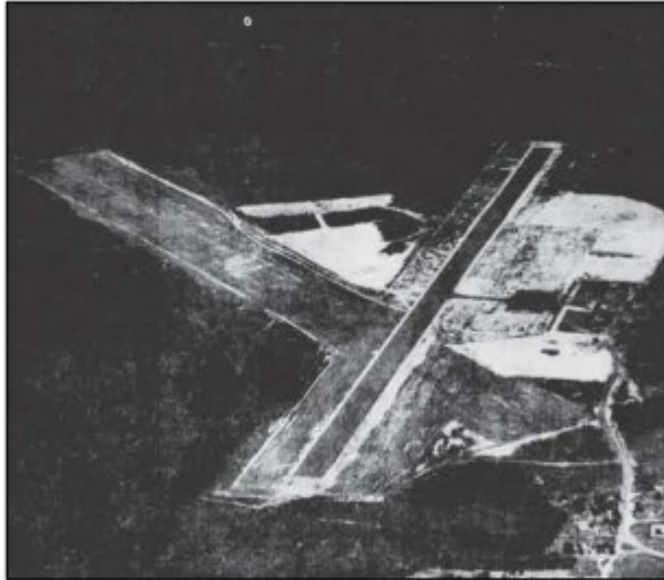


Figure 3: Aerial view of new airport, showing both runways, from September 17, 1954 article in the *Plain Speaker*.



Figure 4: 1953 Photograph of northern (street side) façade of terminal (MB-13), from November 6, 1953 article in the *Plain Speaker*, facing south.

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Hazleton Municipal Airport (Resource #2018RE03389). These photographs were useful in illustrating the original appearance of the property and terminal and changes that have been made over time.

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Allegheny County Airport, Building 51
West Mifflin Borough, Allegheny County, PA

Key #. 070505
ER # 1985-1082-003



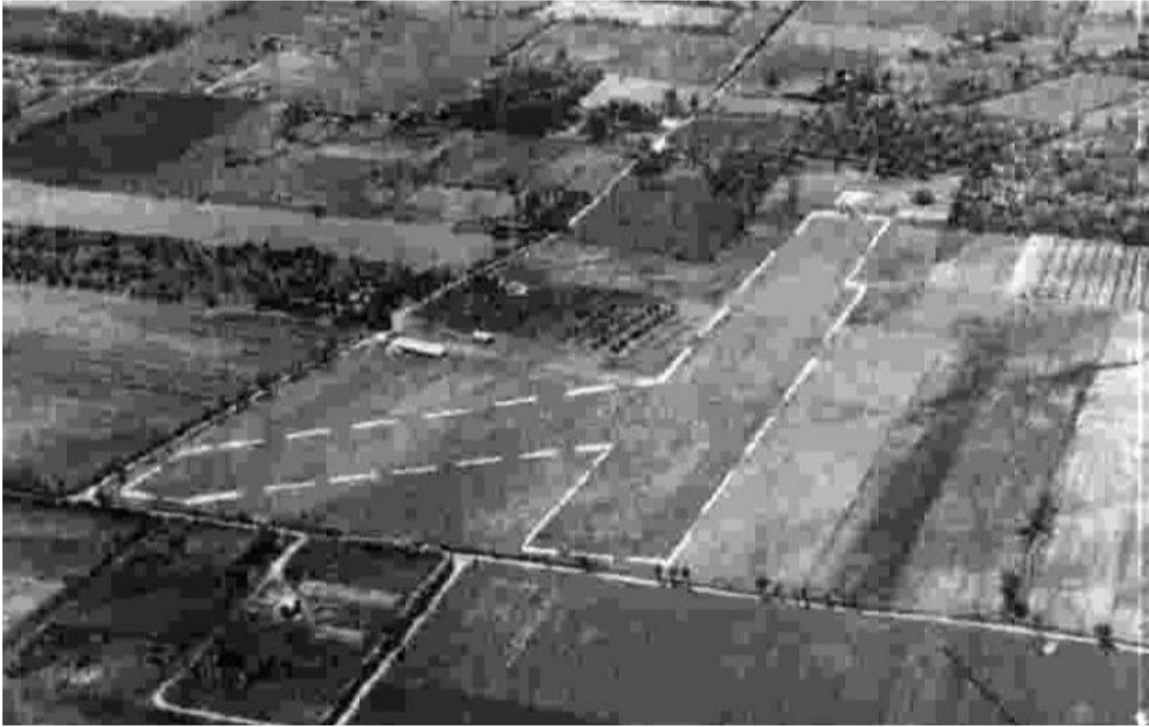
Historic photograph of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation Hangar (Building 51) dated August 13, 1953, by Allegheny County photographer, Michael J. Pennetti. Photo in collection of Allegheny County Airport.

Allegheny County Airport (Resource # 2021RE00881) Historic Photograph

Mill Run Subdivision, Collegeville Road
Skeppack Township

ER#2022PR03914

commercial/municipal airport. The 1945 AAF Airfield Directory described Perkiomen Valley Airport as having an all-way sod field having three runways, the longest being 2,200 feet east/west. The field was said to have two hangars, and to be owned and operated by private interests.³



October 14, 1940 aerial view looking west at Perkiomen Valley Airport from the 1945 AAF Airfield Directory.⁴

Perkiomen Valley Airport (Resource #2022RE08865) Historic Aerial Photograph

Narrative of history and changes over time

1.1 Airport History

In 1924, the Longview Flying Field originated and was rented for parachute jumps and small airplane departures. It became J.D. Hill Airport in 1928. The 55-acre field was purchased on a 15-year option-to-purchase agreement in 1935 and two small graded runways were built by the Public Works Administration and then named Latrobe Airport.

The Borough of Latrobe purchased the land in 1951 and the land was then transferred to the Westmoreland County Commissioners for the purpose of expanding the facilities at the Airport. The Tri-County Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County was created in 1951; the Authority acquired the Airport land as well as an additional 75 acres of land and Runway 3/21 was extended 3,000 feet.

In October of 1958, the Westmoreland-Latrobe Airport was officially opened. A new 5,500 foot asphalt paved, lighted runway and taxiway were constructed December of 1968 along with acquisition of an additional 550 acres of land. An instrument landing system was installed in 1969; the parallel taxiway to Runway 5/23 was constructed in 1970.

The Airport was renamed the Latrobe Airport and the Authority was changed to the Westmoreland County Airport Authority (WCAA) in November of 1970. A new terminal building was finished in 1972. The Latrobe Airport was renamed to Westmoreland County Airport in January of 1978. In 1986, the runway was extended to 7,001 feet allowing the Airport to accommodate commercial service aircraft. US Airways Express also began daily, scheduled service to Pittsburgh in 1986. The terminal building was expanded to a 50,000 square foot facility in 1998.

On May 7, 1999, the Airport was renamed to the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, to honor the golf legend that grew up less than a mile from the runway where he watched the world's first official airmail pickup in 1939 and later learned to fly himself.

In February 2011, Spirit Airlines launched seasonal service to Fort Lauderdale and Myrtle Beach. In January 2012, Spirit Airlines announced service to Orlando on May 17, 2012.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (Resource # 2024RE01787) narrative discusses why the airport was created, when it was opened, and what changes were made to the buildings and runways.