



NHL Executive Summary



Name of Property:	Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District NHL (update)
City, State:	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Period of Significance:	1741-1810
NHL Criteria:	1, 4 (Exceptions 1 and 5)
NHL Theme:	III. Expressing Cultural Values 1. Educational and intellectual currents 5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design V. Developing the American Economy 4. Workers and work culture
Previous Recognition:	2012 - National Historic Landmark
National Historic Context:	III. Development of the English Colonies, 1688-1763 D. Social and Economic Affairs 2. Economic Affairs and Ways of Life XXX. American Ways of Life E. Ethnic Communities



NHL Significance:

- Nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as a physical expression of an eighteenth-century structured communal religious society with a distinctive economic structure.
- NHL Criterion 4 as an outstanding example of Moravian architecture and town planning. Bethlehem is a physical manifestation of the artistic, architectural, cultural, religious, and industrial attributes that set the Moravians apart from other colonial settlers. The *Gemeine* or community planned town created here was done in conjunction with the larger Moravian Community based in Herrnhut, Germany.
- This update to the original nomination of 2011 relates to the addition of the 1748 Second Single Brethren's House. At the time of the original nomination submittal, there were integrity questions about the later additions to the Single Brethren's House which have now been resolved. In addition, the owner, Moravian College (now University), was uncertain if they wanted the Single Brethren's House to be included in the NHL district. Now Moravian University is supportive of the inclusion of the Single Brethren's House within the National Historic Landmark District.

Integrity:

- With its intact core of buildings, the district preserves some of the most important structures and sites relating to the Moravians in the New World.
- The Second Single Brethren's House was constructed of local limestone in 1748, using plans sent from the Moravian Church leadership in Europe. Located at the intersection of West Church and Main Streets, the Single Brethren's House is the largest and most ambitious eighteenth-century building in Bethlehem. At 83 ft. by 30 ft. with six stories, it is a powerful manifestation of the local Moravian Church architectural style with herringbone-patterned doors, shallow segmental brick arched windows, kicked eaves, and a jerkinhead roof with roof deck and wooden balustrade, shed dormers on the upper attic, and gabled dormers on the lower attic.
- Several brick additions from the mid- to late-nineteenth century, although imposing, connect only minimally to the original 1748 Second Single Brethren's House. The Single Brethren's House is still distinguishable and appears almost as it would have when it was a free-standing building. It contributes to the historical significance of the Moravian community as well as to the architectural significance of the overall historic district.

Owner of Property: Moravian University; Historic Bethlehem Museum & Sites

Acreage of Property: 14.7 acres

Origins of Nomination: Updated documentation prepared by Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites and NPS legacy Northeast Regional office in order to support World Heritage listing of property.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: Update to NHL documentation supports preservation of district.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 21, 2023): None.



Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Committee had no comments.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the acceptance of the NHL boundary change and updated documentation for the Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the acceptance of the boundary change and updated documentation for the Historic Moravian Bethlehem Historic District NHL in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.