UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC Squirrel Hill 36 Wm 35

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER West of New Florence near banks of Conemaugh River

CITY, TOWN New Florence VICINITY OF Ninth Street 21st
STATE Pennsylvania CODE 42 COUNTY Westmoreland CODE 129

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY DISTRICT X BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE X SITE OBJECT
OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO
PRESENT USE X AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRIAL SCIENTIFIC MILITARY OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Robert Jones
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN New Florence VICINITY OF
STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Westmoreland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street
CITY, TOWN Greensburg
STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE None
DATE September 1, 1953
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Anthropology Center of Carnegie Museum
CITY, TOWN P. O. Box 28, Meridian Station, Butler
STATE Pennsylvania
The Squirrel Hill site is the remains of a large Late Prehistoric Monongahela village on the terrace south of the Conemaugh River immediately west of the small town of New Florence, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. A steep hill known as Squirrel Hill lies a short distance southeast of the site area and it is from this feature that the site takes its name. The village was recorded as site 36 Wm.35 by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Upper Ohio Valley Archaeological Survey during 1963.

The terrace on which the site is located is relatively flat and lies at an elevation slightly below 1060 feet above sea level. The area has been farmed for many years and as a result many artifacts have been brought to the surface by plowing. Thus, the site is well known to local artifact collectors.

The area of the site is clearly visible as it is marked by a dark oval stain in the soil approximately 300 feet north-south by 200 feet east-west. In this dark soil area fragments of burnt bone, flint chippage, shell-tempered pottery sherds, worked pieces of hematite, and various types of flint and bone tools have been found when the soil has been freshly exposed. Cultural debris in the site area appears to be quite heavy in comparison to most sites in the upper Ohio Valley. This debris would denote an intensive occupation of the village area.
The Squirrel Hill site (36 Wm 35) is one of the largest eastern villages of the Monongahela culture known in the Upper Ohio Valley drainage. It is particularly important since it is situated in the Conemaugh River drainage which was an important passage route between the Ohio and Susquehanna Valleys. The site appears to be related in culture and time to the Johnston site (36 In 2) approximately 10 miles downstream from Squirrel Hill and to the McJunkin site in Allegheny County which has been dated about A.D. 1350.

The dark oval stained soil of the site area indicates that the village had a central open plaza surrounded by a ring of houses which were probably circular and about 20 feet in diameter. If similar to the Johnston and McJunkin sites as believed, the entire village was surrounded by a stockade.

Test excavations conducted by members of the Connemoc Chapter of the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology in a wooded section of the site along the southern bank of the river uncovered the remains of pits and postmolds. In the pits were quantities of well-preserved faunal remains, bone tools and beads, charred matting, and vegetable material. During these excavations a flexed burial was also found. It was left undisturbed and the pit back-filled so it could be adequately recorded at a future date. Most Monongahela sites contain numerous burials within the village area and the presence of human bone fragments on the surface of the Squirrel Hill site is not unusual. Except for the damage done by plowing, most subsurface features are probably intact.

The Squirrel Hill site is one of the few remaining intact villages of the Johnston Phase of Monongahela. As such, this site should be preserved or thoroughly studied if it will be subject to destruction. The Johnston Phase Monongahela sites occupied the Northeastern sector of the total Monongahela territory in the Upper Ohio Valley and there appears to have been important contacts with peoples of the McFate Culture in northwestern Pennsylvania. The position of these groups in the Late Prehistoric period is still poorly understood. The Squirrel Hill site could provide important information on this problem.
MAJOR BIBLICAL SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

Robson, John G. A Comparison of Artifacts from the Indian Villages Quemahoning and Squirrel Hill. Pennsylvania Archaeologist Vol. xxviii Nos. 3-4 December, 1958

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A stream of the Shenahugh River

B

C

D

A stream of the Shenahugh River

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Dr. Don W. Drago, Chief Curator, Archaeology

ORGANIZATION
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 26 Meridian Station

CITY OR TOWN
Butler

STATE Pennsylvania

DATE 4/19/77

TELEPHONE 412-482-4250

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL __ STATE _ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

TITLE Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER