Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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CITY OR TOWN:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY QATE 10 (Type all entries complete applicable sections) T. NAME COMMON: DELMONT AND/OR HISTORIC: SALEM CROSSROADS lictoric Sites Surve 锅香椒 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: WEST OF RT. 66 ON RT. 22 CITY OR TOWN: DELMONT COUNTY: CODE STATE CODE WESTMORELAND 42 42 PENNSYLVANIA 3. CLASSIFICATION **ACCESSIBLE** CATEGORY **STATUS** OWNERSHIP TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Yes: Public **Public Acquisition:** Occupied District Building Restricted In Process Unoccupied Private ☐ Site ☐ Structure W Unrestricted ☐ Being Considered 🔀 Both Preservation worl ☐ Object ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Comments ■ Transportation ☐ Government Park ☐ Agricultural Private Residence Other (Specify) Commercial Industrial ☐ Military Religious ☐ Educational Museum Scientific Entertainment 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: STREET AND NUMBER: STATE: CODE CITY OR TOWN: 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: WESTMORELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE STREET AND NUMBER: CODE CITY OR TOWN: PENNSYLVANIA 15601 42 GREENSBURG REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS ENTRY TITLE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County □ Local DATE OF SURVEY: NUMBER N PS DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: USE STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY STATE: CODE

PENNSYLVANIA

WESTMORELAND

COUNTY

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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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		☐ Excellent	🚰 Good	☐ Fair	☐ Dete	eriorated	Rvins	Unexposed	
	CONDITION	NAL	(Check O	ne)			(Che	ck One)	
	SIT	1	red	■ Unaltered			☐ Moved	Original Site	
									

Salem Crossroads, now called Delmont, Pennsylvania, is located just east of Rt. 66 on Rt. 22, the Old Norther Pike, about 23 miles east of Pittsburgh. The Salem Crossroads Historical Restoration Society has selected various portions of the town to be restored as a working, open-air museum depicting the commercial and cultural aspects of the community during the period of its former prosperity, 1830-1870. When completed, this will be the only museum in the country exclusively dedicated to this era of our nation's history.

The proposed program is thoroughly explained in the statement of significance section of this form.

The restored sections will represent the domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and community activities of the town durning that period (its historic period.) The remaining buildings will house artists, craftsmen and businesses such as restaurants and gift shops, or any other activity related to the themes of the restored community.

Within the present town are four two story log houses. Two of the houses have three bays, one with a porch and the other with a two story ell. The third log house is five bays, with an open roofless porch. All four of these houses have been covered with siding but it can be removed and the houses could be easily restored at a nominal cost. The fourth house was at one time used as a tannery.

The Greek Revival style flourished in Western Pennsylvania from 1830 to 1850, and it is therefore the predominant building form in the town. Whether free standing or attached in row houses, the majority of the buildings are brick, laid in common bond; the roofs are moderately pitched with gable chimneys. They project slightly over the fascial and terminate in the box cornices. Ornate brick work patterns adorn several buildings, suggesting Classical cornices with triglyphs, metopes, mutules, and modillions. The windows are restangular with simple molded or flat lintels and sills. Porches consist of Doric columns, supporting hipped or pedimented roofs and entrances have pilasters with transoms and sidelights. buildings have coupled brackets, added during the Italianate Interspersed among the Greek Revival buildings are a brick Gothic Revival church and a simplified Queen Ann style house that now serves as the headquarters for the Salem Crossroads Historical Restoration Society.

UNITED STATEMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ENNSYLVANI	A
COUNTY	
WESTMORELAN	D
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Description - 2

The Central Hotel is a five bay two story building with a low pitched roof. It has two front entrances; the center bay contains the main entrance which is Georgian with sidelights and a fanlight; the end bay entrance is much simpler with only a transom. The Hotel has a four bay two story ell that has its own entrance. Both sections have coupled brackets. The minor alterations necessary to restore this building include replacement of the front entranceway and second story porch; refurbishing the faded hotel sign, removing the awning over the ell entrance, and rebuilding the gable chimneys, two at each gable. The restaurant in the hotel will also be restored to the 1830 period and feature an 1830 cuisine.

One-half block from the hotel is the "Big Spring" which still runs today and originally determined the location of the community. The old watering trough once again could provide water for horses because it was recently restored.

The basilica plan Gothic Revival church, nearest the crossroads at the center of town, has a dressed stone block foundation,
brick walls with pilasters between each bay and a pitched roof
with a frame bell tower above the gable end entrance. The windows are tall lancet arches with simple slate tracery. Blind
arcading runs along the rake of the gable and along the fascia
in the Lombard Romanesque manner. Each elevation of the bell
tower has two lancet arches with louvers, a pitched roof section
and brackets. A simple square plan steeple would be added during
the restoration of the church. It will become the first Christian Church Museum in the United States and will have an electronic
program recreating the church services of the period. Plans call
for a second museum: the Utility Company Museum would display
the history and operations of the local telephone, gas companies
and the water authority.

The important mills of Salem Crossroads will be restored and reactivated. The old steam-powered feed mill is structurally sound but in need of repair and restoration. It is a four bay two-and-a-half story structure, with a moderately pitched roof and a single dormer in the middle of the front elevation. Part of the structure is covered with shingles, the rest retains the original wood weatherboards. After restoration, the mill will be reactivated. Salem Crossroads had a thriving woolen mill which would also be restored. This five bay frame structure

UNITED STATED PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

PENNSYLVAN	IA
COUNTY	
WESTMORELA	ND
FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Description - 3

had a rear addition creating a saltbox form.

The wagon shop, the third oldest building in the town would be restored. It retains its original appearance except that the double wagon garage has been converted into a five bay, one story wing. The house is two stories with four bays, irregularly spaced, possibly denoting the addition of the end bay. The gable chimney is at the elevation that joins the wing. The house has been covered with siding which is easily removeable for restoration purposes.

The brick yard, livery stable, and blacksmith shop would also be reactivated. The community's distillery only operated a short time before it was destroyed by fire; it would be reconstructed to its original appearance: a two story, three bay, frame building with a pitched roof and porch with a shed roof across one side elevation. At the rear corner, toward the porch, is a tall circular chimney, about twice the heighth of the front wall elevation.

An area near the watering trough would be used for craft and household demonstrations common in 1830-70: leather craftsmen, silversmith, cabinet maker, metal worker, pewter craftsmen, churning butter, grinding coffee, preparing apple butter, cheese and guilting processes. The proposed revival of the winter ice harvests would provide a most unusual attraction. Already acquired is a frame building of c.1920, an old Ford Garage, with a stepped gable (a building type once found in hundreds of U.S. towns); it will be restored as a museum of early transportation history, once the main industry of the community. Salem Crossroads would include a four hundred acre demonstration farm and The farm will display early farm equipment and natural area. farming methods: a man plowing with a two horse team and hand plow, cradling grain, stalking sheaths, and threshing grain. Within the natural area the indigenous plants, trees and animals will remain and trails will be developed.

In addition to all of these activities, Sales Crossroads woul have a horse drawn stage line to carry tourists from the parking area to the various restored sites.

After restoration Salem Crossroads will accurately portray the life-sustaining and cultural activities of an early mill town settlement.

UNITED STATES OF PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY
WESTMORELAND

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) Description - 4

The border of Salem Crossroads Historic District runs along the western boundaries of the properties adjacent to Route 66 on the northern and southern side of East Pittsburgh Street, it turns southeast along the alley behind the houses on the southern side of East Pittsburgh Street; then turns southwest along the alley behind the houses on the western side of Greensburg Street to the Post Office; it turns southeast along the alley on the southwest side of the Post Office, crosses Greensburg Street; turns northeast and runs along the alley behind the houses on the southeastern side of Greensburg Street; it turns southeast and runs along the alley behind the houses on the southwest side of East Pittsburgh Street; turns northeast along the southeastern property line, of the last building; turns northwest and runs along East Pittsburgh Street; turns northeast at the first alley, runs northeast along the last building property line; turns northwest and runs along the alley behind the houses on the northeast side of East Pittsburgh Street to Route 66.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔯 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	le and Known) 1	B30 - 1870	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	[2¶2Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	% Industry	losophy	Crafts
X Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
★ Conservation	Music	▼ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Delmont, Pennsylvania, formerly known as Salem Crossroads, was located on the Northern Pike stage route between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The town developed around a large spring, (that still runs today) which provided water for the travelers' horses. Passengers spent the night at the Central Hotel, which is still standing, before traveling on to Pittsburgh the following day. The community thrived from 1830 until 1870 when its importance and prosperity were diminished by the railroad.

The Salem Crossroads Historical Restoration Society has realized the potential and uniqueness of its community's history and has developed a comprehensive restoration plan that has received considerable community support. However, the town planning commission in association with a private developer has adopted plans for the future redevelopment of the area. This plan does not include the historical restoration project. It is therefore of utmost importance to secure the preservation of the community so that the historic properties may be incorporated in the final redevelopment plans. In addition, the present town is currently planning to start on a complete sewage program which will provide the necessary facilities in the restored community.

Salem Crossroads is unique in that no other community in the United States in the time period of 1830 to 1870 has been restored. It will therefore present the visitor with infrequently viewed scenes of nineteenth century Americana.

The restoration society has well-developed, historically accurate plans to present the complete industrial, agricultural, and community life as it once existed in this small town.

Because of its proximity to the entrance, the feed mill will be one of the first buildings visible to approaching visitors. The steam powered feed mill was powered with coal from a mine situated a short distance from the mill. Plans

UNITED STA DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ENNSYLVAN	IA
COUNTY	
WESTMORELA	ND.
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Significance - 2

include the activation of the feed mill to give today's generation a first hand view of the tremendous efforts required for its operation. In 1836 a group of men associated with the feed mill embarked on a new related business venture—adistillery. This was probably at that time the biggest business investment the community had ever experienced as it required a sum of \$23,000, a tremendous amount in that day. The distillery was destroyed by fire and the historical restoration society plans to reconstruct it.

Ice harvests, the early means of refrigeration, on the large pond would also be reinstated during the winter months.

The wagon shop, always one of the first businesses established in a community would also be reactivated. It is the third oldest building in Salem Crossroads and it served as a house as well.

In addition to these industries, the town also had at least one brick yard which supplied bricks for many of the buildings still extant, a livery stable and a blacksmith. All of these would be restored and reactivated.

Another unique concept in the restoration plan proposes a Utility Company Museum, which would include exhibits and artifacts showing the early activities of the local water, telephone, electric and gas companies. The Municipal Water Authority, which presently controls the huge reservoir that stores the water supply for Westmoreland County is located near Salem Crossroads. The local telephone company originated in this community when the first phone was entended from one farm to a second farm and then to a home within the present community. One of the first pumping stations for natural gas was established in this community, and many artifacts have been found by the gas company in the course of their digging.

Water from the "Big Spring" that originally determined the location of the community still exists and runs today. The water from the spring still flows into the old watering trough.

Near the watering trough is a church that will become the first Christian Church Museum in the United States. The church was a vital part of the community life and future visitors will

UNITED STATED PEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

PENNSYLVA	NIA
COUNTY	
WESTMOREL	AND
FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Significance - 3

be able to view exhibits depicting the influence and history of the church in rural America.

The original Central Hotel, which is now used as apartments would be restored to the form it was when it served as the last stage stop for people traveling from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh on the Northern Pike. At that time it included a restaurant which would also be restored.

Within the confines of the present town are four log houses. They have been covered with siding which could be removed, and the houses could then be restored, for a nominal cost.

An activities area has been incorporated in the restoration plan where arts and crafts, common to an 1830 community would be demonstrated. These would include such skills as a blacksmith, coppersmith, leather craft worker, pewter worker, and others.

Surrounding the community is a beautiful area of rolling hills, of which 400 acres are available to provide a magnificent setting for early farming method demonstrations. A group of men in Westmoreland County are already restoring and reconstructing early farming equipment. Farming demonstrations would include a man plowing with a two horse team and a hand plow, the cradling of grain, the stalking of the sheaths, and the threshing of grain. Other farm displays would involve visitor participation giving visitors the opportunity to feed chickens, gather eggs, pet a calf, ride a hay wagon, pump water by hand, and assist in handmilking of cows. Part of the area would remain in a natural state abundant with a wide variety of wild flowers, plants, and trees, as well as deer, grouse, squirrel, rabbits and birds.

On another portion of this same farm land, there once existed a cave known as Anderson's Cave. Anderson, for whom it was named, was a school master in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He found delight in robbing the stage coaches as they approached Salem Crossroads. When robbing the passengers he would take insignificant trinkets and then, by horseback, he would return to the cave to store the items. The horse-drawn stage line would carry visitors from the auto parking area, past the cave, through the farming methods demonstrations and into the community.

In order to organize such a vast restoration the Historical

UNITED STATE PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ENNSYLVANI	A
COUNTY	
WESTMORELAN	D
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Significance - 4

Society has adopted a six level work program that would enable Salem Crossroads to open in 1976--the bicentennial of Pennsylvania as well as the United States.

The Central Hotel Restaurant featuring an 1830 cuisine, the Christian Church Museum, the steam powered feed mill, and the coal mine will be the first properties to be restored. Subsequently, historical zoning would be adopted and a revolving fund would be established to purchase and restore additional properties, acquire facade easements, and fund land use programs. These programs would include an area for housing for the elderly and retention of natural areas for historical and educational purposes.

Other future exhibits are already being planned. A large drug company has agreed to make available for exhibition its unique collection of artifacts used in the early days of medicine. One of the earliest brick making companies in the state has already been contacted and has tentatively agreed to work with the project in establishing a brick refractory. Existing stores and shops would be available for leather craftsmen, cabinet makers, silversmiths, metal workers and pewter craftsmen. In addition, various art and gift shops would naturally find their way into the community.

The location of Salem Crossroads is a great asset to its proposed use as a living outdoor museum village. Located alongside Route 22, east of Pittsburgh, it is the last point east on the Pittsburgh Transit Authority bus line, a forty-five minute ride from Pittsburgh. It would therefore be accessible to school groups from Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, and Lawrence Counties.

Salem Crossroads has a thoroughly planned restoration program which aims at historical accuracy. As a working, open-air village it would provide a valuable educational experience for all who attended. It is ideally located among numerous surrounding towns which assures a large attendance during the school year, holidays, and summer vacations.

Salem Crossroads presents an era long neglected among the open-air village in this country. The town had national importance: it was an important stop on the Northern Pike; and it represented our nation's growth, westward expansion, and stabilization of the frontier.

UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The historic and architectural continuity of Salem Crossroads must be preserved; it is essential that the town be incorporated into local redevelopment plans as an historic district.

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Form 10-301 (July 1968)

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON	AND ON HISTORIC	TOWNERS COOK (New Street)
Molmont	Salem Crossroad	S
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Possoylv, ia	Westmoreland	Delmont
STREET AND NUMBER	\	.'
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
USGS 7.5' Seried Glickville, Po. Quad	1969	1:24000
	RIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH AR	ROW:
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		GPO 932-
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	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE	EINTERIOR
FORM 10-301 A (6/72) N. J.	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTOR	UC DI ACES
N/		
.	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH F	
(1)	pe all entries - attach to or en close	with photography
. NAME	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON		
DELMONT	SALEM CROSSROADS	
L LOCATION		
TATE	COUNTY	TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA	WESTMORELAND	DELMONT
TREET AND NUMBER		
•		
West of Rt. 66 on Rt.	22	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE	•	
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Pittsburgh History &		
Landmarks Foundation	10/29/73	<u> </u>
LIDENTIFICATION		

UNITED STA DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STAT	YLVANIA	
COUNTY		
WES.	rmoreland	
	FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
ε	NTRY NUMBER	DATE
Ε		

(Number all entries) PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM - 1
Building numbers correspond to map location.

House A - East Pittsburgh Street

View 1 - South & East facades

" 2 - Southern facade

House B - East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - Southern facade

House C - East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - North & West facades

House D - East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - South & East facades

Houses E, F, G - Greensburg Street
View 1 - East facades

House F - (Wagon Shop #11) - Greensburg Street View 1 - East & North facades

House G - Greensburg Street
View 1 - East facade

House H - East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - South & East facades

House I - East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - North facade

Building #4 - Central Hotel, East Pittsburgh Street View 1 - Southern facade

Building #7 - Christian Church Museum, East Pittsburgh Street View 1 - North & East facades

Building #8 - Feed Mill, East Pittsburgh Street
View 1 - South & West facades

Building #11 - Wagon Shop (House F), Greensburg Street
View 1 - East facade

Watering Trough - East Pittsburgh Street
View from the northwest

Form 10-301 (July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NA PIAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME	•	
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Delmont	Salem Crossroads	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Pennsylvania	Westmoreland	Delmont
STREET AND NUMBER		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Westmoreland County		
Property Map	1973	1" = 200'
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES.	WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW-	

GPO 932-010

