

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Westmoreland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Hannastown *Old Hannas Town*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4 miles Northeast of Greensburg, Pa.

CITY OR TOWN:
Hempfield Township (Greensburg)

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Westmoreland	CODE 129
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work * in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Westmoreland County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Greensburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Westmoreland County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Greensburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Deed Plot for Wm. Steel Jr. and Sara J. Steel (Rev. 7-30-69)

DATE OF SURVEY: 8-18-65 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Morris J. Ramsay, Registered Civil Engineer File #4081

STREET AND NUMBER:
125 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Greensburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Restoration Work in Progress (Archeological Dig)

STATE: Pennsylvania	COUNTY: Westmoreland	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original village of Hannastown, which was founded in approximately 1768-9 consisted of 30 log houses laid out according, to plan with named streets and alleys, 2 taverns and a garrison palisaded fort. It was bisected by an earlier built military road constructed by the British-Colonial Army in 1758 under the command of General John Forbes on his march to capture and destroy Fort Duquesne, and thus drive the French out of the "Gateway To The West", thereby reasserting England's earlier claim to their New World Colonies' Western frontier. Because of its rather centralized location in the frontier area and since it was for a short time more populous than young Pittsburgh, it was designated as the site of the first English Court administering justice West of the Alleghenys. It fulfilled this function from 1773 until 1787, during which part of its jurisdiction included not only what is now Westmoreland County, but also that area which is now Washington County, Fayette County, Greene County, the Eastern part of Allegheny County, including Pittsburgh and the Southern part of Armstrong and Indiana Counties.

At the close of the revolution, Hannastown was burned by the Seneca and the British in 1782. The destruction of Hannastown by this force was one of the last, if not the last, hostile act of the American Revolution.

All of this settlement, except Hannas tavern & Courthouse and the fort, were destroyed by the fire. Hannastown was never rebuilt and no drawings or sketches are known to exist. A painting of the settlement by Homer Bair, as he imagined it to be based on some reserach work he did, now hangs in Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Museum.

The site of Old Hannastown is now occupied by a mansion house, barn, various farm buildings and a tenant house, (All of which will be removed progressively as restoration is carried out) plus the spring that supplied water for the fort and that is presently enclosed and protected by a substantial cut stone structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1768-9

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hannastown was significant for the "Hannastown Resolves" adopted on May 16, 1775, which we call a little Declaration of Independence. This was more than a year before the Liberty Bell tolled and told the good news of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Hannastown Resolves was the response of the citizens of Westmoreland County to the challenge of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. These resolves are distinguished from other resolves or little Declaration of Independence throughout the country, especially from the Pittsburgh Resolves of the same date, in that the Hannastown Resolves resolved not only independence from Great Britain in words, but to take action in a military way, which action was taken by the citizens of Westmoreland County in June of that year by organizing John Proctor's Westmoreland County First Battalion of Rattlesnake Flag and "Don't tread on me" fame.

The events and happenings at this site on the frontier of our emerging nation and early national conscienceness are an indelible portion of this nation's history, in that it constituted the first seat of government West of the Alleghenies, was the birthplace of John Proctor's Westmoreland County Battalion of Revolutionary War fame, as well as being the fount of the Hannastown Resolves of May 16, 1775, called a Little Declaration of Independence which was over a year prior to our National Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In addition, the early and extensive geographic coverage of Westmoreland County included all of that portion of our Commonwealth now nominally referred to as Southwestern Pennsylvania. We are of the opinion that the restoration of this site will add another jewel to our states places and points of historic interest for present generations, but also of more importance, for those yet unborn.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McCartney, Clarence Edward, Where The Rivers Meet "Hannastown Massacre"
 Albert, G. D., History Of The County Of Westmoreland
 Hassler, Edgar W., Old Westmoreland
 Boucher, John M., West of Westmoreland County
 Walkinshaw, L. C., As Forbes Trailed Through

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	79° 30' 49"	40° 20' 45"		°	'	"
NE	79° 30' 1"	40° 21' 8"				
SE	79° 29' 51"	40° 20' 24"				
SW	79° 30' 40"	40° 20' 10"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **182 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Wm. F. Porter, Vice President and Administrator

ORGANIZATION: Westmoreland County Historical Society DATE: 1-13-70

STREET AND NUMBER:
Westmoreland County Museum of Art, 221 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Greensburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name S. K. Stuber

Title Executive Director

Date October 5, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GREENSBURG QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA-WESTMORELAND CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 GREENSBURG 15 QUADRANGLE

5184 IV
 (LATROBE)
 1:62500



	Lat	Long
NW	79° 30' 49"	40° 20' 45"
NE	79° 30' 1"	40° 21' 8"
SE	79° 29' 51"	40° 20' 24"
SW	79° 30' 40"	40° 20' 10"

Old Hannastown site

CRABTREE 29 MI.
 5.2 MI. TO U.S. 22