

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

N/A

and or common Household #1 Site, 36WM61 (Fisher #34)

2. Location

street & number Timms Lane

not for publication

city, town Rostraver Twp.

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county Westmoreland

code 129

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Westmoreland County Dept. of Parks and Recreation

street & number Donohue Road

city, town Greensburg

N/A vicinity of

state PA 15601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Westmoreland County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Greensburg

state PA 15601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

PA Archaeological Site Survey
title Carnegie Museum Site Files

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1950

federal state county local

depository for survey records State Museum
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

city, town Harrisburg/Pittsburgh

state Pennsylvania

7. Description.

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Household Site, 36WMG1 occupies a flat bluff overlooking the south bank of the Youghiogheny River in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. As a privately owned farm, the site for many years, was subjected to intermittent plowing which disturbed the upper 8" of soil. Recently, the site and land surrounding was acquired by the Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation to become a part of Cedar Creek Park. In 1980, several ballfields were to be built there and the site would have been greatly disturbed if not destroyed. Upon receiving word of this possibility, archaeologists from Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Westmoreland Archaeological Society began a salvage excavation. Publicity generated by this project created enough adverse publicity for the Parks and Recreation Department, that plans for the ballfields were revised to preserve the site. In the late summer of 1980 the site was plowed, harrowed and planted with grass. Ballfields were to be laid out in 1981 and the surface disturbance was to be kept to a minimum.

Based on the 1980 excavation that established the southwest boundary of the village and surface scatter of artifacts observed later in the same year, the Household Site is at least 500 feet long on its northeast, southwest axis and 400 feet wide on its northwest, southeast axis. It is a typical prehistoric Monongahela village with a "circle" of houses enclosed by a stockade line both of which surround a central plaza.

George Fisher, a local amateur who operated in the area between 1900 and 1950, noted the occurrence at Household of slab burials and "fine arrow points" although he was much surprised by the lack of mussel shell and bone. Fisher's statements were verified during the 1980 excavation when a paucity of bone and shell was noted although six houses, 42 features and 18 burials were exposed. Sixteen of the burials were found in one house; an unusual occurrence for Monongahela. Unfortunately, most of these had been disturbed by pot hunters and this condition should be recorded.

Prehistorically, the Household Site occupied a level bluff that was bracketed by two springs. Access to the nearby Youghiogheny River, was via a gentle slope and the larger Monongahela River, as a part of the Ohio-Mississippi system, was only 4½ miles to the west. Relatively level land to the southwest of the village would have provided fields for maize horticulture and an unobstructed view for defense, a not unusual situation for Monongahela sites.

Access today is provided by an unpaved extension of Timms Lane that once served the Household Farm houses and out buildings. These were leveled following annexation by Cedar Creek Park.

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Continuation sheet Household #1 Site

Item number 9

Page 1

- Butler, Mary. Three Archaeological Sites in Somerset County, Pennsylvania," in B.C. Kent, et al., Foundations of Pennsylvania Prehistory (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1975).
- Dragoo, Don W. "Excavations at the Johnston Site, Indiana County, Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 25 (1955) 85-141.
- George, Richard L. "Monongahela Settlement Patterns and the Ryan Site," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 44 (1974): 1-22.
- George, Richard L. "The McJunkin Site: A Preliminary Report," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 48 (1978): 33-47.
- Herbstritt, James T. "Bonnie Brook: A Multicomponent Aboriginal Locus in West Central Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 51 (1981) 1-59.
- Michael, Ronald and Grantz, Denise L. "The Fisher Site (36Gr21): Drew Phase Monongahela," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 54 (1981): 19-37.
- McHugh, William P. "Archaeological Goals and Methods and Monongahela Systematics," Pennsylvania Archaeologist 54 (1984): 26-31.

8. Significant

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 950- 1350

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Comparison with other Monongahela sites (see Butler 1971; Drago 1955; George 1974, 1978; Herbstritt 1981; Michael and Grantz 1981; and McHugh 1984) suggests several research questions to be addressed with data from this site.

1. Cultural Stress and Conflict: On the basis of data accumulated during the recent excavations of a number of Monongahela villages, it is evident that warfare was a fact of life for the Monongahela peoples during the 700 years of their occupation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The location of villages on hilltops suggests that defense was an important factor in settlement location. The sparse artifact inventory and lack of extensive midden deposits indicate relatively brief occupations of these sites and provide further support for their defensive nature.

The 1980 excavation of part of the Household Site yielded a similar picture: domestic refuse was scarce while projectile points and other lithic tools or weapons were more common. The presence of sixteen burials within a single house likewise suggests warfare.

The evidence for inter-village conflict of this late (c-14 date of A.D. 1520, corrected) site suggests a general pattern of continuous warfare, most likely related to territorial competition, that may have been a factor in the decline of the Monongahela culture and its extinction in the area by the time of European contact.

2. Phase Identification: Pottery is commonly used to define various phases of Monongahela culture. At least three phases seem, on the basis of current information, to have coexisted in the Upper Ohio River valley. The Household Site pottery, characterized by cord-marked, shell-tempered vessels with decorated lips, may represent an ultra-conservative Drew Phase or a new phase. The interrelationships and meaning of Monongahela phases is a primary research problem in Monongahela studies.

3. Physical Anthropological Studies - An article in the Pittsburgh Press of March 7, 1932, discussed the finding of "pearl studded teeth" in the skulls of Household Site burials. One of the eighteen burials uncovered in 1980 had the same characteristic of small "bubble" of enamel located well below the gum line. This condition has not as yet received the attention of physical anthropologists working in the Upper Ohio Valley. If the trait was genetically inherited, it might be used to identify the serially occupied villages of a single village group. "Pearl teeth" have been recognized from other Monongahela villages in the Upper Ohio Valley, but the distributional pattern is unclear.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8

Quadrangle name Donora 7.5

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 
Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Item 10 continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code NA county NA code

state N/A code NA county NA code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard L. George, Field Archaeologist

organization Carnegie Museum of Natural History date 4/30/81

street & number 4400 Forbes Avenue telephone 361-5245

city or town Pittsburgh state PA 15213

12. 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Jerry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration