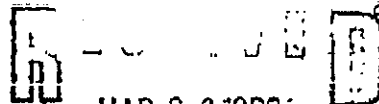


NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-97)



OMB No. 1034-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAR 26 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Homestead Historic District other names/alter number N/A

2. Location Principally along Eighth Avenue, between Sixth Avenue and Doyle of street & number Eleventh Avenues. city, town West Homestead, Homestead and Munhall Boroughs state Pennsylvania code PA county Allegheny code 003 zip code 15120

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal

Category of Property: [] building(s), [X] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (457, 62), sites (0, 0), structures (1, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (458, 62)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official: Dr. Brent D. Glass, Date: 3/21/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [X] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register. [] other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper: Amy Federman

Date of Action: 5/10/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCE/TRADE/specialty storeRELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCE/TRADE/specialty storeRELIGION/religious structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATEROMANESQUEGOthicOther: AMERICAN FOURSQUARE, VERNACULAR

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONEwalls BRICKWOOD/weatherboardroof ASPHALT

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Homestead Historic District includes parts of West Homestead, Homestead, and Munhall Boroughs on the south shore of the Monongahela River, approximately 10 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The District is composed of non-industrial buildings that are generally of two to three stories, of frame or brick, and constructed between 1890 and 1941. The majority of the District's commercial buildings are concentrated along Pennsylvania Route 837 (Eighth Avenue), which is the main thoroughfare connecting the boroughs. These commercial buildings are mainly of brick construction and feature Italianate and Romanesque styles, and common utilitarian designs. The area south of Route 837 is mostly rising ground, built up mainly with detached 2 1/2 story houses of brick, brick veneer, and frame construction, and feature mainly vernacular styles such as the Homestead and Foursquare (to use the terms of Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House*). A large number of churches and institutional buildings are interspersed with the houses and represent such architectural styles as Gothic, Romanesque, and Art Nouveau. The district consists of 519 buildings, of which 62 are non-contributing.

The District forms an irregular strip of land parallel to a bend in the Monongahela River, and the terrain slopes down toward a plain area beside the river, with a rise of 80 feet at the point of maximum width of the District. The longer dimension of the District runs southwest-northeast; for brevity these directions will be, respectively, west and east. The river plain to the immediate north of the District is industrial land whose structures have been very largely demolished. The opposite side of the river is steep, wooded ground, almost unpopulated.

Pennsylvania Route 837 is the main thoroughfare of the District, common to West Homestead at the District's western end, Homestead at its center, and Munhall at its eastern end. For most of its length within the District, Route 837 is Eighth Avenue. In West Homestead, the prevailing character of the north side of the street is commercial vernacular of c. 1900-c. 1920 consisting, in about equal proportions, of contributing 2- and 3-story brick buildings with upstairs apartments, parking lots, and non-contributing modern buildings. The south side of Route 837 in this area is composed in part of 2 1/2-story frame houses and in part of empty lots and non-

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contributing commercial buildings, with 2 rows of workers' houses, one frame, one brick, as unusual contributing elements. In Homestead, Route 837 is very largely composed of 2- and 3-story commercial architecture of the period 1890-1930, with the beginning of the 20th century typically represented. Styles are Romanesque and various Classical manners, with a builder's vernacular also to be found. The typical building material is brick, usually with stone trim, though one front of pressed metal appears as well. The Tindall Building at 303 Eighth Avenue is fairly typical of the Romanesque style, c. 1900, of this commercial strip. It is three stories high. The ground floor is modern, the entrance included, to the second-floor sill level. The two upper floors are of pale yellow brick with brown sandstone window arches and sills. Red brick panels are set into the third-floor window spandrels, and atypically into a filled third-floor central arch that bears a Masonic emblem. Almost all shops have had original fronts and fascias replaced, typically to the second floor window-sill level, and facade remodelings, modern construction, and demolitions have caused 15 percent of the District properties along Route 837, 32 of 193 buildings, to be non-contributing. At Eighth Avenue and Amity Street, on the southwest corner, is a small open area displaying two ingot molds on an ingot buggy. At the northwest corner is a Modernistic stone stela commemorating the Strike of 1892, erected in 1942. Route 837 in Munhall is included in the District only as a linking element between contributing areas to the north and south.

The area north of Route 837 in West Homestead has an irregular street layout and contains 2-story low-income workers' houses, typically frame though with some brick or brick-veneer construction, and of no specific architectural style. Houses are built either in rows or very slightly detached. Integrity is in general good, though only on 3 houses is the original wooden drop siding exposed. This section also contains an ethnic social hall, frame but fronted in brick c. 1930, and a 3-storied industrial building, framed in steel or reinforced concrete and faced in brick, of the early 20th century. The Homestead part of this section contains buildings remaining from the "Ward," a neighborhood of poorly-paid employees of the Homestead Works of U.S. Steel that was largely demolished for Works expansion in 1941. At Sixth Avenue and Amity Street stands the Pennsylvania Railroad station of 1907, a National Register property. Commercial buildings of 2 and 3 stories predominate, with brick and wood frame construction in approximately even

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amounts. The buildings are vernacular constructions of no specific architectural style. Integrity in the frame buildings is usually compromised by modern siding and in some instances by ground-floor remodeling. Number 246 Sixth Avenue, a 3-story commercial and apartment building, remains fairly representative of Ward buildings of c. 1900. Its pilastered ground floor appears to have had shop-sized openings that were early filled in with the same 2-light window sash and drop siding seen on the third floor. The window surrounds above are undetailed save for a thin crown molding. The second-floor sash has been replaced. The front and visible side wall retain their original wooden drop siding. In Munhall, the District extends north of Route 837 to include two 3-story vernacular brick commercial buildings of c. 1890, including the Bost Building associated with the Strike of 1892, and the "Hole in the Wall," the archway through a railroad viaduct that led from the Ward to the Homestead Works; the cement-faced portion of this viaduct, about 500 feet long and 30 feet deep, is included.

The areas south of Route 837 vary from borough to borough. That at the western part of West Homestead consists of steeply-rising wooded land, with detached 2 1/2-story frame houses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Only the largest of these, the Colonial Revival mansion of George Mesta, has an identifiable architectural style. The Mesta house may be considered the only genuine mansion found in the District. It was built shortly after 1900 for the owner of the Mesta Machine Company, the largest employer in West Homestead, and overlooks the plant. The proportions are broader than is correct, and the conspicuous west front is without symmetry. Trim is, in general, very simple. 540 Doyle Avenue, its neighbor to the immediate east, has a masonry terrace-and-steps approach, but otherwise is a 2 1/2-story, 5-bay 19th-century wooden house with spare Greek Revival and Italianate details on a vernacular body. The central portion of West Homestead centers on Forrest Avenue, a valley road running southward from Route 837. This has eleven 2-story frame workers' houses which are very slightly detached, and of good integrity apart from siding. There is also a Second Empire villa of the latter half of the 19th century, possibly antedating any industrial development in the District. This area also contains a small hillside war memorial park of the early 20th century. This contains an honor roll and granite stela, which is on a cement-finished terrace in Modernistic reached by a flight of steps. Adjacent, standing before a cement-finished

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retaining wall, is a piece of light artillery. Near by is a 2-story school building of c. 1930, steel framed, faced in brick, and with a cornice and doorway of no specific style. In the eastern part of West Homestead the ground rises again. West Homestead School, a 2-story Renaissance school of brick, built c. 1900, and a 2-story row of workers' apartments, built c. 1900 and without specific architectural style, are notable in this area. Otherwise, slightly-detached 2-story frame houses of the early 20th century predominate; these have no specific architectural style. A fairly typical house in this area is 551 Eighth Avenue. This is a 2 1/2 story frame house with wooden drop siding, rectangular in plan, with a gable facing the street. It has a plain 2-bay wooden side porch. Openings on both floors are asymmetrically placed, though the general effect is of a 2-bay front. All front windows below the roof have decorative shutters.

The character of the District is different in Homestead and Munhall, where middle-class houses, usually detached but close-set, stand with churches and other institutional buildings on regular street grids. Houses are sometimes of identifiable styles, Victorian, Princess Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor, or Shingle Style, but most are of the vernacular styles such as the Homestead House and American Foursquare of the period 1900-1930. Non-contributing structures stand on Ninth Avenue either side of Amity Street; these are plain, modern commercial buildings set among contributing structures. Others lie immediately beyond the western boundaries of the Homestead section of the District. Compromises to the integrity of contributing houses include: some commercial ground-floor remodeling on north-south streets between Eighth and Tenth Avenues; common but not total replacement of wooden drop siding by aluminum siding; and replacement in isolated instances of wooden porch posts by brick piers or openwork metal columns. Complete removal of porches is very rare. 401 Tenth Avenue is one of the very few true Colonial Revival houses in the eastern part of the District, with its doorway of elaborate woodwork and sidelights, its Ionic porch, its symmetrically-disposed second floor windows, and its pedimented dormers in a hipped roof. 409 Tenth Avenue represents the very small presence of the Tudor style, with its stone porch of 4-centered arches and its half-timbered gables with vergeboards. The houses of c. 1900 at 502 and 518 Eleventh Avenue, built for senior officials of the Homestead Works, are in a Shingle Style that includes some Classical detailing. The

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principal wall material is golden-brown Roman brick, relating the buildings visually to adjacent buildings, the former Works Superintendent's house and the Carnegie Library. More typical houses are represented by vernacular houses on the north side of the 400 block of 11th Avenue, with their 2-bay width, front porches, and hipped roofs with frontal gables or hipped dormers. That some are brick and some frame is typical within the Homestead and Munhall part of the District. Houses are almost without exception 2 1/2 stories, and 3/4 are of brick or brick-veneer construction. Hip roofs, sometimes with gables fronting on the street, are common. Because of the rising ground, those on the south sides of the streets are raised above street level. Shallow front and very narrow side yards are typical. In Munhall, in addition, there are several small apartment houses of brick with front bay windows or porches. Interspersed with these residential buildings, mostly along Ninth and Tenth Avenues in both boroughs, are 17 church buildings from 1892 to c. 1950, the great majority from the 1900-1930 period. Styles represented are Gothic, Romanesque, medieval Russian, and Art Nouveau. Gothic churches include rock-faced stone buildings such as the Homestead United Presbyterian Church, (1903), with corner towers, cross-gables, and very sparse detailing, brick buildings such as St. Anthony's Church (1941), and brick and terra-cotta buildings such as the Park Place A.M.E. Church (1920). Romanesque is represented in St. Mary Magdalene, built in a Richardsonian manner in 1895, then remodelled in a more Italian Romanesque in the mid-1930s. A medieval Russian style is evidenced in St. Nicholas Church (1937) with its richly-molded brickwork and trio of onion domes. Art Nouveau is very rare in the Pittsburgh area, but an Italian variety of it appears in St. John's Cathedral (1903). At Tenth Avenue and Amity Street is Frick Park, a block in area. This is planted with trees and grass, and has a simple X-shaped pattern of walks. At its center are 2 commemorative stelas, a howitzer, a light naval or anti-aircraft gun, and a small breech-loading cannon.

The Carnegie Library of Homestead, which is actually in Munhall, is a unique building for the area, combining concert hall, public library, and neighborhood club in a single building of 1898, built in a Chateausque manner though with Italian Renaissance detailing. Its golden-brown Roman brick is very unusual in the District, but relates the building visually and associatively to Works management houses across the street, built with the same material. Homestead contains two 3-story school buildings, one

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Renaissance, one Tudor, and Munhall has a 3-story school building in a modernized Tudor style. Both Homestead and Munhall contain parks. Frick Park in Homestead is one block in area with both lawns and trees. Library Place in Munhall is a block of steep lawn, with widely-spaced trees, at the foot of the Homestead Carnegie Library.

NPS Counting Purposes: the objects mentioned in the above narrative, such as the stelas, artillery pieces and cannon, are not counted in Section 3 due to their relatively small size and scale.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c 1890-1941

Significant Dates

1892

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Longfellow, Alden and Harlow
de Bobula, Titus

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Homestead National Register District has significance under Criteria A and C. It retains, with sufficient integrity, the non-industrial buildings and layout of an industrial community of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The district is historically significant as it is associated with one of the most decisive events in the history of American industry, the Homestead Strike of 1892, and its buildings reflect the community that developed thereafter. The District is architecturally significant, as it contains a varied and representative selection of residential, institutional, and commercial architecture from the period c. 1890-c. 1940, as well as some individual buildings of architectural distinction.

Of the three borough parts which compose the District, Homestead and Munhall are intimately associated with what was ultimately the Homestead Works of the United States Steel Corporation, while West Homestead has a more diverse history. Historically, all three have in common origins as portions of West Mifflin Township whose industrial character was owing to the presence, parallel to the Monongahela River, of the Pittsburgh, Virginia & Charleston Railroad that began operations in 1872, supplemented later by the Pittsburgh, McKeesport & Youghiogeny, and the Union Railroads. Their development came early in a general industrial development of this portion of the Monongahela Valley above Pittsburgh that began with the National Tube Works at McKeesport in 1872 and the Edgar Thomson Works at Braddock in 1875. All three boroughs conform to a Monongahela Valley type established by earlier boroughs immediately westward, now annexed to Pittsburgh: West Pittsburgh, South Pittsburgh, Birmingham, East Birmingham, Ormsby, and Hays. Each has been both industrial and residential, but none has had a true center; rather, they have been arbitrary slices of a single linear development with industry and railroads on the river plains and housing on both the plains and the adjacent hillsides, with an arterial road with commercial development connecting them.

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The oldest of the boroughs in the District is Homestead, incorporated in 1880. It began as a real-estate development on the "Amity" farm of Abdiel McClure in 1871 by the Homestead Bank and Life Insurance Company, and was later extended to include a portion of the West farm to its west and a development of "Dickson & Burchfield" to the east. It was parceled out in small lots on a typical street grid, apparently with a commuter suburb in mind, but in 1879 Bryce, Higbee & Company built a glass plant and workers' housing at the foot of West Street, just west of the original plan. At the same time, the Pittsburgh Bessemer Steel Company and a rolling-mill company bought adjacent properties not far east of Homestead, on what had been the Poor Farm of the City of Pittsburgh and in 1901 was to become the Borough of Munhall. Both enterprises were directed by Andrew Kloman, a bitter rival of Andrew Carnegie whose intention was to compete with Carnegie's Edgar Thomson Works four miles up the river. Using the Bessemer process, Edgar Thomson had produced the first high-tonnage steel in the Pittsburgh area, its special product at first being rail. The Pittsburgh Bessemer product was also principally rail, so that the rivalry was clear and direct.

Pittsburgh Bessemer began operations in 1881. It did poorly though, and in 1883 became a unit of Carnegie, Phipps & Company, and in 1892 was reorganized as the Homestead Works of the Carnegie Steel Company, a new company whose chairman was Henry Clay Frick. Carnegie greatly enlarged the Homestead Works over the rest of the century, adding the more versatile open-hearth process to the Bessemer process and developing specialties in structural steel and armor plate.

The famous Homestead Strike of 1892—actually a lockout as well as a strike—was ostensibly over a new scale of payments for the "tonnage men," the skilled workers paid by the amount produced, but was actually a fight for power between the formerly-powerful Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers and Henry Clay Frick, chairman of the Carnegie Steel Co. The battle between the Pinkerton forces and the townspeople on July 6 is the most famous event in local history. That day, 300 Pinkerton special police attempted a landing from the Monongahela River to protect the Works and the strikebreakers who were to come. The Homesteaders, warned of their coming, fought them for 12 hours until the Pinkertons surrendered. Yet the strike ended in a union defeat on November 20. By 1903 there were no unions in the steel industry, and would not be until 1937, largely because of the trial of strength at Homestead. The Strike of 1919, which affected several

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industries in the Pittsburgh area, was ineffectual. The Bost Building in Homestead, which had been union and press headquarters both, exists within the District as a place strongly associated with the Strike of 1892. However, the "Homestead" part of the District is almost wholly the product of the next half-century, when labor was under the complete domination of management.

The post-1892 relationship between the people of Homestead and Munhall and the management of the Works on which, directly or indirectly, almost everyone in the two boroughs depended economically was ambivalent. Individuals associated with the Carnegie Steel Company management made conspicuous gifts to the community. The Homestead Carnegie Library, which like the Works itself is actually in Munhall, was a personal gift of Andrew Carnegie, opened in 1898. Like his Braddock Carnegie Library of 1888-1893 and his Duquesne Carnegie Library of 1900, it was actually a triple-function building: public library, concert and lecture hall, and recreational club. Prominently sited at the top of a small park, flanked by the houses of senior Works management, it was a handsome building designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, the architects who had recently completed the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. This, then, was a gift to the community presented with considerable flourish. In 1903, Charles M. Schwab, who had been superintendant of the Works after the Strike, returned on a triumphal occasion, attended by eight bands and 10,000 marchers, to dedicate the C. M. Schwab Industrial School, built at his expense on Ninth Avenue in Homestead. The design has not quite the distinction of the Library (and has had a fourth story added), but was by Frederick John Osterling, a prominent Pittsburgh architect who had done domestic work for Frick and probably for Schwab himself. A third gift was from Frick in 1905: the improvement of a square set aside for park purposes in the original Homestead plan, henceforth known as Frick Park.

These were the most visible tokens of the benevolent face of management in the years that followed the Strike. There were less conspicuous ways in which the Carnegie Steel Company promoted stability outside its gates, and the maintenance of a tractable and when possible contented labor force. The coming of unionization in the late 1930s gave the workers bargaining power once more, but the attitude of dependence on the Works for public services and leadership, rather than on the rather weak and little-esteemed local governments, continued. In 1941, the Defense Plant

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Corporation eliminated almost the entire "Ward" north of Route 837 in order to expand the Homestead Works. Before this time, no part of the Works had actually been in Homestead; the greater and original part was in Munhall, with a newer part in West Homestead. Now, the Works occupied all three boroughs near the river. World War II and subsequent years through the 1970s kept the works active, but a combination of courses led to rapid decline of the U.S. steel industry, and the Homestead Works was closed in the mid-1980s. The Works land, apart from a very few structures, will be cleared for redevelopment. Closing of the Mesta Machine Co. in the West Homestead, around this same time, has left all three boroughs without their traditional economic bosses and in doubt about the future.

In 1894 a subsidiary of the Carnegie Steel Company, the Carnegie Land Company, began to subdivide the former City Farm area in Munhall uphill from the Works in a wedge-shaped area between Eighth and Nineteenth Avenues, into house lots, most of them quite small, and to build houses of varying quality on streets, whose grid continued approximately that of Homestead, that were already paved and provided with utilities. The finest property was undoubtedly the "Mansion" just east of the Library, the chateau-like house for the Works superintendant built in 1896. This unfortunately no longer exists, but two division superintendants' houses of around the same time, 502 and 516 Eleventh Avenue, still stand near by. From these houses, with their ample grounds, there was a descending scale in size and amenity, the simplest houses being without electricity or plumbing but all being regarded as the best housing in "Homestead" for the money. In addition, the Works provided the community with various services, less generously toward the end than at the beginning.

The commercial architecture on Eighth Avenue, as Route 837 is called in Homestead, for the most part dates from the early 1890s through the late 1920s. In their variety of styles, Romanesque, Classical, Tudor, and vernacular executed in brick, the 2- and 3-story buildings of the commercial strip suggest an advance beyond the rather stark functionalism of the Bost Building and one or two others remaining from c. 1890; architectural style had become a sales feature, suggesting both a consumer public to be courted and enough merchant prosperity to invest in display. Eighth Avenue served as both a commercial and a social focus, crowded on Saturday evenings, more varied and respectable than the saloons and stores of the "Ward" to the immediate north. The nearest similar concentration of business on the south

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side of the river was over 4 miles away, in the Pittsburgh South Side. Eighth Avenue was thus in a position to draw trade from beyond Homestead and the adjacent boroughs, and to some extent from across the river. After 1930, though, only noncontributing one-story buildings, without architectural detailing or with false roofs and similar features, were built in this part of the District. Commerce was in a state of decline by the late 1970s, when an economic-revitalization program occasioned partial recovery.

The "Ward," the district between Seventh Avenue and the river in Homestead, was one of the two poorest residential quarters and notorious as wide-open in matters of vice. A very few brick and frame commercial structures remain from the Ward today, since everything north of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks was condemned in 1941 by the Defense Plant Corporation for Works expansion. These few surviving structures must alone represent the quarter that Margaret Byington in 1908 found populated by ill-paid "Hunkies" and Blacks. Anna Mae Lindberg, who had lived on City Farm Lane in the Ward around 1930, interviewed former residents on their experiences of life there, and received comments such as: "I grew up there and it was a warm friendly place. Lots of immigrant families. We were all poor, but we were all in the same boat. We helped each other, and we never knew we were poor" (Margie Carlin, "Taking the Pulse of 'Mean Street,'" *Pittsburgh Press*, January 18, 1976).

The strip of land between Ninth and Eleventh Avenues in both Homestead and Munhall is occupied very largely by middle-class houses of the early 20th century, built to individual or uniform designs and for professional and mercantile families as well as for Works personnel. With two Shingle Style houses for senior Works management, across Eleventh Avenue from the Carnegie Library, as notable exceptions, these houses are almost entirely in the vernacular of their time, with no strong adherence to any architectural style. It is their collective character rather than their individual qualities that gives them architectural interest. This same area has additional significance because of the remarkable group of 17 religious buildings found there. The streets, and especially Tenth Avenue in Homestead, have distributed among them: several Protestant churches, including an A.M.E. and a Hungarian Reformed church; St. Mary Magdalene, an Irish Catholic church; St. Anthony's, a Polish Catholic church relocated from the Ward in the early 1940s; St. Michael Archangel, a Slovak Catholic church; St. John's Cathedral, a Ruthenian-Greek Catholic church; and Rodef

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Shalom Synagogue. These churches, built between 1892 and c. 1950 and 15 of them before 1940s, attest to the religious and ethnic diversity of "Homestead" as a whole, and also evoke a feeling that this was a prestigious part of the community. The Black congregation of the Virginia Gladden A.M.E. Church and the Ruthenian congregation of St. John's Cathedral probably came from the Ward, and could have had their places of worship much more handily located if convenience alone were to be considered; the desire to make an appearance among the churches of other congregations seems to have determined location.

Several of these churches are remarkable as works of architecture. St. John's Cathedral, built in 1903, was the most ambitious executed work of Titus de Bobula, a Pittsburgh architect of that time of whom almost nothing is known. His Cathedral is in an Italian variety of Art Nouveau, the rather blocky sort then being built in the Milan area, and is quite unique in the Pittsburgh region. Even his other two known extant churches, St. Peter and St. Paul in Carnegie and the First Hungarian Reformed in Hazelwood, are rather different in style. St. Michael Archangel is a very large church for this area, a modernized Italian Romanesque work of 1927 by Comes, Perry & McMullen, well-known designers of Catholic churches in Pittsburgh. St. Mary Magdalene, originally built in 1895 to a design by the Pittsburgh architect Frederick C. Sauer, was burned out in 1932 and rebuilt in 1936 with radical alterations by an architect whose name has yet to be established; these alterations included banding and other decoration in rich red brick and terra cotta that greatly enliven the yellow brickwork and tan sandstone of the Romanesque original. St. Anthony's, built in 1941 to designs of Lamont Button, is a simple but very refined work in deep red brick with a roof of pantiles, a building remarkable not for architectural display but for the meticulous use of simple means.

West Homestead has had a different history from Homestead and Munhall. No one industrial enterprise supported the borough that was incorporated in 1900, though the Mesta Machine Company that began operations in 1898 was the most conspicuous of the plants along the river shore. At the beginning of the century several other plants, notably those of the Howard Axle Works and Harbison-Walker Refractories, existed in the borough. The borough had small working-class homes along Eighth Avenue, on Forest Avenue that ran inland along a valley, and on the hilltops on both sides of the valley, but unlike Homestead and Munhall, West Homestead

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seems never to have housed all who worked there. In 1915, with the population around 4000, Mesta, Howard, and the railroad yards alone employed 3900. Certainly many workers therefore arrived at the Hays or Mesta stations by train, came by trolley, or walked over from Homestead.

The configuration of the town differed from that of Homestead and Munhall in that, above the Eighth Avenue fringe of workers' housing there was a steep wooded slope whose prominent feature was the nearly-level Doyle Avenue, with rather large houses on ample properties. Chief among these was the Colonial Revival house of George W. Mesta, a large wooden mansion by an unknown architect built c. 1900 and sited so as to overlook the Mesta Machine Company plant. This siting is, in a way, analogous to that of the "Mansion," the Works Superintendent's house in Munhall, yet the Superintendent there overlooked the Homestead Works as an employee, while Mesta's position was more analogous to that of Frick, domiciled in Point Breeze, or of Carnegie, living in New York.

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Homestead Historic District were chosen by focusing on the domestic, institutional, and commercial functions which developed in a mill town c. 1900. By excluding the mill itself, with the exception of the "Hole in the Wall" entrance tunnel to the mill, the district emphasizes the vernacular housing stock, turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, and a full sampling of churches which indicate how those who worked in the mills lining the Monongahela River organized their community.

In general, the boundaries are necessarily jagged following at times the topography—e.g. along Doyle and Forest Avenues. The northern boundary drawn above Frick Park includes the most representative housing stock and the greatest concentration of churches. The housing excluded, while not drastically different in character from the housing along Ninth and Tenth Avenues, changes in scale and concentration above the library.

The southern boundary along Sixth and Seventh Avenues include eight industrial areas which illustrate the older industrial/commercial character of the former "Ward" which was the area below the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks now occupied by the mill and Mesta Machine Company.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

- 1) 620 Seventh Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, Pennsylvania (PA)
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF)
 - 6) W
 - 7) No. 1
-
- 1) 549 & 551 W. Eighth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 2
-
- 1) George Mesta House, 540 Doyle Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) S
 - 7) No. 3
-
- 1) 825-841 Forest Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 8/23/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) E
 - 7) No. 4
-
- 1) 321-327 1/2 W. Seventh Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 8/23/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) NE
 - 7) No. 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 2

- 1) 606 Howard Street Historic Homestead District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) W
 - 7) No. 6
-
- 1) Chiodo's Tavern, 107 W. Eighth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) West Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) NE
 - 7) No. 7
-
- 1) 1110-1120 McClure Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) SW
 - 7) No. 8
-
- 1) 301 & 303-305 E. Eighth Avenue, Tindall Building, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 9
-
- 1) 229-233 E. Eighth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 3

- 1) 217-221 E. Eighth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) L. Donnelly
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N11
-
- 1) Sixth Avenue & Ann Street, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) SW
 - 7) No. 12
-
- 1) Homestead P.R.R. Train Station, Amity Street and Sixth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 7/18/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 13
-
- 1) Bost Building, 525 E. Eighth Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 7/16/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 14
-
- 1) "Hole In The Wall," City Farm Lane
 - 2) Munhall, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) E
 - 7) No. 15

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 4

- 1) St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1000-1003 Amity Street, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/18/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N W
 - 7) No. 16
-
- 1) East Ninth Avenue at Amity Street, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/18/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) S
 - 7) No. 17
-
- 1) 203 E. 10th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/18/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) E
 - 7) No. 18
-
- 1) St. John's Greek Catholic Church, 913 10th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Munhall, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/12/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) NE
 - 7) No. 19
-
- 1) 327 & 329 E. 10th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
 - 2) Homestead, PA
 - 3) P. Sands
 - 4) 4/18/89
 - 5) PHLF
 - 6) N
 - 7) No. 20

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 5

- 1) 411-417 11th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
- 2) Munhall, PA
- 3) P. Sands
- 5) PHLF
- 6) N W
- 7) No. 21

- 1) 502 11th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
- 2) Munhall, PA
- 3) P. Sands
- 4) 4/12/89
- 5) PHLF
- 6) S
- 7) No. 22

- 1) Kostol Sv Michala, Library Place, Homestead Historic District
- 2) Munhall, PA
- 3) P. Sands
- 4) 4/12/89
- 5) PHLF
- 6) NE
- 7) No. 23

- 1) 613-645 9th Avenue, Homestead Historic District
- 2) Munhall, PA
- 3) P. Sands
- 4) 4/12/89
- 5) PHLF
- 6) N W
- 7) No. 24

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Alegheny County Survey, Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey zone forms and site forms for Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead.
- Anon., Descriptive Review Showing Development of the State of Pennsylvania (Chicago/New York: George F. Cram Co., 1916).
- Anon., Real Estate Plat-Book of the South-Eastern Vicinity of Pittsburgh, Penna. (Philadelphia: Griffith M. Hopkins, 1900).
- Byington, Margaret. Homestead: The Households of a Mill Town (1910: reprinted by University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, 1974).
- Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1986).
- Miner, Curtis. Homestead: The Story of a Steel Town (Pittsburgh: Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1989).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 202

UTM References

A	1,7	5,9,2,4,2,0	4,4,7,2,3,2,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,7	5,9,3,1,0,0	4,4,7,3,1,7,0

B	1,7	5,9,3,0,1,0	4,4,7,3,6,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,7	5,9,2,3,6,0	4,4,7,3,0,4,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary lines of the Homestead Historic District are as shown on the enclosed map labeled "Homestead Historic District."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Earl D. James, project director

name/title Walker C. Kidney/historian Lu Donnelly, Patricia Sands/consultants
 organization Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation date January 30 1990
 street & number 450 Landmarks Bldg., One Station Square telephone (412) 471-5808
 city or town Pittsburgh state Pennsylvania zip code 15210-1170