

# West Overton Village

Pennsylvania

Schematic Design  
Interpretive Prospectus  
Environmental Assessment

D-85A

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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR DRAFT WEST OVERTON VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission (Commission), has prepared and made available for public review the West Overton Village Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus/Environmental Assessment (EA). The schematic design and interpretive prospectus describe the proposals considered for development in the Village of West Overton, Pennsylvania. The EA evaluates the project's potential impacts on natural and cultural resources.

The proposed plan has been drafted to correspond with the primary focus of the Commission to develop, enhance and interpret the iron and steelmaking, coal and transportation themes within the nine-county region designated as the Commission's project area. As part of that project area, West Overton Village in Westmoreland County is an outstanding example of a community that evolved from an agrarian to an industrial society in 19th Century America.

The purpose of this document is to record the selection of the proposed plan and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (43 CFR 1500). This FONSI should be attached to the EA for West Overton Village.

### **THE PROPOSAL AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Development of the proposed plan at West Overton would include the following actions:

- Recreate the historic village and setting and provide areas for special events.
- Maximize the existing pastoral setting and minimize intrusive elements.
- Reduce vehicular and pedestrian conflict by eliminating conflict areas.
- Create links with the area's existing recreational and cultural facilities.



The proposed plan will rehabilitate the first level of the homestead stable to provide space for visitor orientation. The distillery will be the Village's main orientation and interpretive center with exhibit areas, community meeting rooms, a multipurpose theater, a gift shop, library and archives. The structures along Frick Avenue will be adaptively reused, possibly as rental residences, small retail shops, professional offices, restaurant, and a bed and breakfast. One worker's house would be restored to depict the life of a typical worker. Modern intrusive structures will be removed from the Village. West Overton Road will be realigned around the Village; Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive through the Village will be closed to through traffic. A trail will connect industrial ruins sites in the immediate area and follow Felgars Run and Jacobs Creek into Scottdale. Utility services for potable water and sanitary sewer service will be upgraded.

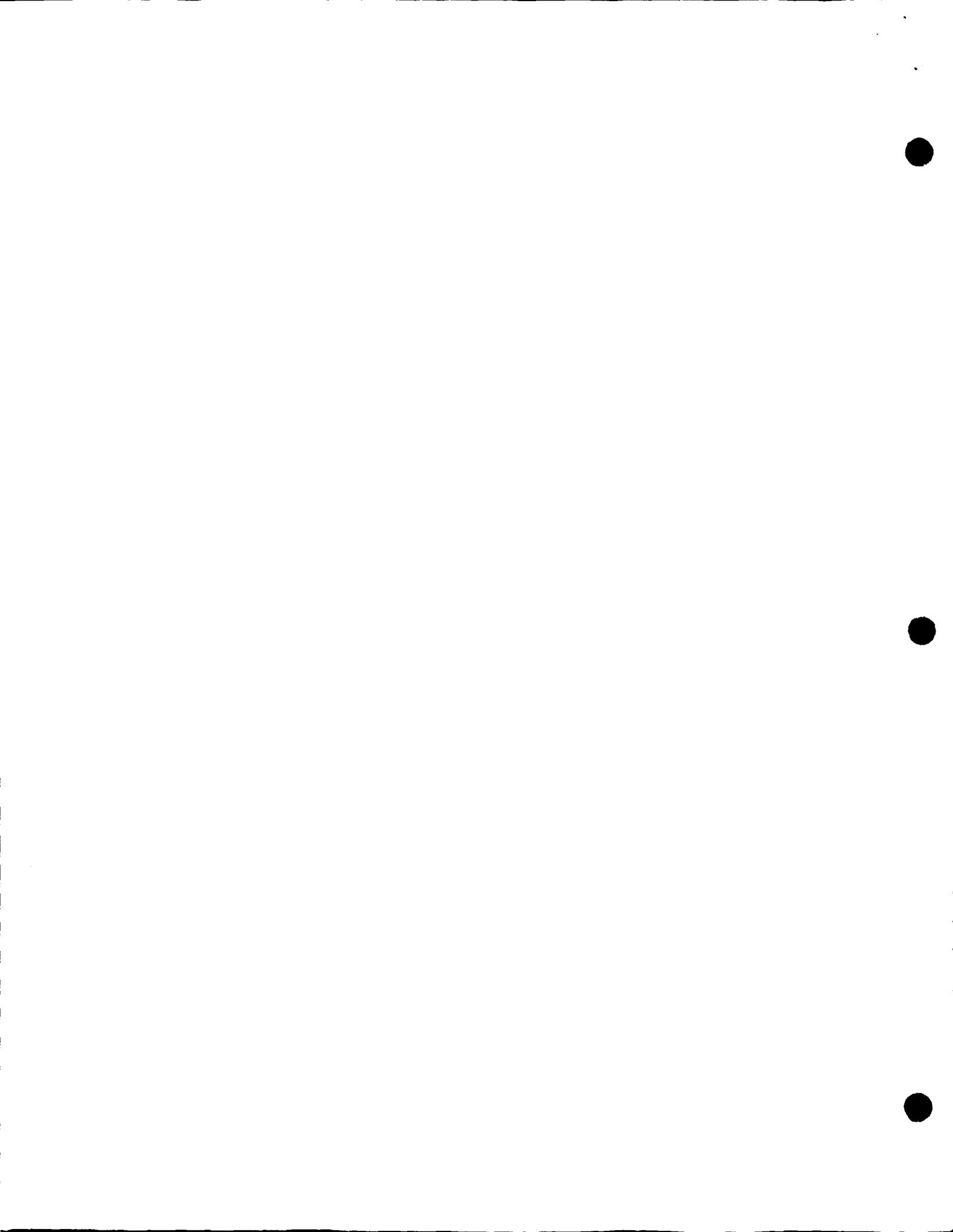
In addition to the proposed plan, a no-action plan also was considered. The no-action plan was rejected because conditions in West Overton Village would remain the same or possibly deteriorate further.

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During the process of developing the schematic design and EA, several agencies were consulted and individuals contacted for information and input. The draft document was sent to these agencies and individuals for review and comment. The document also was available for public review from January 10, 1994 to February 10, 1994 at five area public libraries.

#### OFFICIAL RESPONSE

The Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus/Environmental Assessment was sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Westmoreland County. The Soil Conservation Service was the only agency to respond to the request for review and comment of the document. In a letter dated, January 25, 1994, this agency noted that several soils in the Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance categories were omitted from the text. While the additional soils are shown on the soils map for West Overton, most of them are in the region surrounding the project site, rather than underlying the site, and were not specified as being in the above categories. However, two soils that are classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance and underly the project site should be added to the text and designated on the map. They are Atkins silt loam which borders Felgars Run and Ernest silt loam which underlies the distillery and a portion of the Henry S. Overholt house. Implementation of the proposed plan will not commit additional amounts of these two soils to other than agricultural purposes.



CONCLUSION

After reviewing the comments on the Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus/Environmental Assessment for West Overton Village, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission has determined that implementation of the proposed plan does not constitute an action that significantly affects the human environment, as defined in Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 853). Therefore, the Commission will not prepare an environmental impact statement and will move forward with the design for this project.

Approved: Randall D Cooley  
Executive Director, Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

Date: 7/11/24



**Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus  
Environmental Assessment**

Draft  
October 1993

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**West Overton Village**  
Pennsylvania

United States Department of the Interior  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission • National Park Service



## SUMMARY

Thoughts of industrialization and southwestern Pennsylvania elicit images of coal mines, huge steel mills and blast furnaces, company towns, railroads, immigrant workers, strikes, and dramatic conflicts between labor and management. And all of these images are based on the reality of that time and place. There are other stories that are just as valid. The transition from agriculture to industrial production in a few places was an almost gentle evolution. Preserving and interpreting these sites, such as West Overton village, would increase our understanding of the diversity of the region's industrial stories.

West Overton is a small village in southwestern Pennsylvania, about 45 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Between 1803 and 1880, West Overton evolved from an isolated farming community into a thriving rural industrial village. The townspeople, managers, laborers, and craftspeople lived and grew through these changes in social and economic traditions and lifestyles.

The village today is basically uninhabited. Many well-preserved structures from the early and mid 19th century remain. The structures appear frozen in that past time frame, outside the currents of change. Most of these structures are managed and owned by the board of directors of West Overton Museums. Several buildings are open to visitors, and there is also a significant collection of objects and archival materials.

Although the West Overton Museums organization provides many educational, cultural, recreational, and research opportunities for the public, the village could be a place where visitors could understand how a once-isolated

community responded to the growing commercial and industrial economy in southwestern Pennsylvania and the nation, and how its distinctive character was changed forever by the dynamic forces of industrialization. The village contains all the elements needed to tell this story of transition and of industrialization's profound effects. Other sites in the region illustrate a single, grand-scale chapter of this transition; West Overton chronicles the entire story on a small, personal scale.

Among other things, this *Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus/Environmental Assessment* describes what needs to happen to bring this unique West Overton story to the public. A methodical process of data gathering, research, public survey, and analysis was begun. Buildings that could be adaptively used were identified, as well as what experiences would be desirable for visitors to West Overton. With all this information as a basis, a site plan was then developed. Through a re-creation of the historic scene, this plan, when implemented, will bring the West Overton story alive.

The plan first considers how visitors coming to West Overton would enter the village — by a new access road off State Route 891 constructed at West Overton Road. Directed into a parking/dropoff area near the Overholt homestead, visitors would then walk to the rehabilitated stable for initial site orientation. Visitors could learn the layout of the village and be able to choose what area to visit next.

More thorough orientation and services would be provided at the main orientation and interpretive center in the rehabilitated distillery. There visitors

## SUMMARY

would find exhibit areas, a multipurpose room/theater, a gift shop, community meeting rooms, and the library and archives. From the distillery, visitors could go to other areas of the village:

the Overholt homestead — with the rehabilitated/refurnished house museum, springhouse/cottage, summer kitchen/washhouse and the rehabilitated carriage house, smokehouse, and outbuilding

the Overholt stock farm — with its farmhouse, restored large barn (to be used for exhibits, special events, and as a display for farm equipment), small barn (used as a working farm building), warehouse, and small stable

the residential area — with the H.S. Overholt house (to be used perhaps for a restaurant and/or offices or retail space), the C.S. Overholt house/store (to be rehabilitated as a historic store on one floor and for retail sales on another floor), and the five worker houses (some of which would be restored/refurnished and some that would be used adaptively)

a loop trail around the stock farm that has a railroad site, a coke oven, and a coal mine site

The plan also includes a pedestrian/bicycle greenway to Scottdale (which links with the stock farm loop trail), improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation and safety, a travelers information station, oral histories, a site handbook and brochures, developing special events and educational/ community programs, improved community involvement, land

acquisition priorities, needed additional utility lines, and staffing needs.

The impacts of implementing the plan are assessed. There would be minimal impacts on the historic structures and natural resources, minor impacts on area land use, a probable increase in vehicular traffic (because more visitors are expected to visit West Overton), a positive impact related to improving vehicular circulation, a positive impact on the visual quality of the village, some possible short-term benefits in local employment opportunities related to construction work, long-term economic benefits because of increased revenues and additional employment opportunities, and possibly some lifestyle and social changes resulting from an influx of people into the region.

Visitors and residents would find travel within the village easier and safer, and visitors with disabilities would find many structures accessible that previously were not. Visitors' experiences would be enhanced because of the improved orientation, exhibits, interpretation, restoration of many of the structures, and creation of a more aesthetic scene. New facilities and programs and educational opportunities would be available, and there would be efforts to involve the community in many activities.

This plan has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This draft plan will be distributed to other agencies and the public for review and comment.

## CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Background/Location	1
Brief History and Significance	1
Project Vision and Goal	5
Purpose and Need	5
Relationship to the America's Industrial Heritage Project and the Commission	6
Process	8
Existing Conditions and Analysis of Issues	10
Existing Historic Structures	10
Vehicular Circulation within the Village	13
Issues Related to Telling the West Overton Story — Interpretation	13
Visitation Analysis	14
Archeological Resources Analysis	15
Soil Analysis	15
Visual Analysis	15
Analysis of Desired Visitor Experience	16
Creating an Experience for Visitors	16
What Visitors Would Learn — Interpretive Themes	17
Analysis of Historical Architectural Integrity	19
Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus	20
An Overview of the Plan	20
The Proposed Plan	25
Abraham Overholt Homestead	25
Distillery	29
Overholt Stock Farm	32
Residential Area	34
Re-creating the Historic Setting	50
Maximizing the Pastoral Setting and Minimizing Intrusive Elements	50
Reducing Vehicular and Pedestrian Conflicts	50
Felgars Run Greenway and Links to Other Cultural and Recreational Facilities	51
Additional Interpretive Program Proposals	51
Research and Archival Collection	53
Special Populations	54
Community Involvement	54
Land Acquisitions	56
Utilities	56
Hazardous Materials	60
Geotechnical Investigation	60

CONTENTS

Management and Operation	61
Staffing	61
Annual Operating Costs	61
Revenues	62
Partnership	62
Marketing	62
Funding	62
Phasing	62
No-action Plan	65
Alternatives Considered but Rejected	70
Entrance to the Village via the Trailer Park Access Road	70
Relocation of S.R. 819	70
Affected Environment	71
Cultural Resources	71
Natural Resources	71
Physiography and Topography	71
Geology and Soils	71
Prime and Unique Farmland	71
Climate	71
Air Quality	72
Water Resources	72
Floodplains/Wetlands	73
Vegetation	73
Wildlife and Aquatic Life	75
Threatened and Endangered Species	75
Hazardous Materials	75
Socioeconomic Environment	76
Land Use	76
Transportation	76
Recreation	76
Socioeconomics	79
Utilities	80
Sanitary Sewer Service	80
Electric Power	82
Telephone Service	82
Natural Gas Service	82
Impact Assessment	83
No-action Alternative	83
Impacts on Cultural Resources	83
Impacts on Natural Resources	83
Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment	84
Impacts on Visual Resources/Aesthetics	84
Impacts on Visitor Experience	84
Impacts on Public Health and Safety	84

The Proposed Plan	84
Impacts on Cultural Resources	84
Impacts on Natural Resources	85
Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment	88
Impacts on Visual Resources/Aesthetics	90
Impacts on Visitor Experience	91
Impacts on Public Health and Safety	92
Compliance with Federal and State Legislation and Policies	97
Consultation and Coordination	98
Appendixes	99
A: Legislation	101
B: Cooperative Agreement	107
C: Summary of Responses to West Overton Village Newsletter Survey	111
D: Vehicular Circulation Analysis	114
E: Visitation Analysis	116
F: Archeological Analysis	118
G: Soil and Prime and Unique Farmlands Analyses	119
H: Visual Analysis	122
I: Visitor Experience Analysis	126
J: Historical Architectural Priority Matrix	129
K: Immediate Stabilization Measures Necessary for Historic Structures	136
L: Scope of Work for Historic Structures	138
M: Summary of Proposed Interpretive Media	149
N: Letters Regarding Threatened and Endangered Species	150
Bibliography	166
Preparers and Consultants	168

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Location	2
Historic Conditions	11
1867 West Overton Business Directory	12
Site Plan	21
A. Overholt Structures, floor plan	39
A. Overholt House, floor plan	40
Distillery, floor plans	41
Distillery, floor plans	42
Farmhouse, floor plan	43
Large Barn, floor plan	44
Farm Structures, floor plans	45
H.S. Overholt House, floor plan	46
C.S. Overholt House/Store, floor plan	47
Worker Houses A, B, and C, floor plan	48

CONTENTS

Worker Houses D and F, floor plans 49  
Proposed Water and Sewage Plan 58  
Proposed Sewage Connection to Scottsdale 59  
Drainage and Vegetation 74  
Existing Land Use 77  
Existing Utilities 81

**TABLES**

1. Class C Cost Estimates 63  
2. Project Phasing and Costs 64  
3. Summary of the Proposed Plan 66  
4. Westmoreland County Socioeconomic Data, 1980-1990 79  
5. Summary Comparision of Impacts 93

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND/LOCATION

West Overton is a small village in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, about 45 miles southeast of Pittsburgh between Mount Pleasant and Scottdale (see Location map). Between 1803 and 1880, West Overton evolved from an isolated farming community into a thriving rural industrial village. Residents pursued several interrelated agricultural and industrial enterprises, including farming, livestock husbandry, weaving, distilling, milling, and coopering, and later coking coal. Coking was a direct link to the large-scale industrial production that by 1880 had become a major factor of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. The village was also the birthplace of Henry Clay Frick, who became one of the Carnegie Steel magnates.

Although the village today is basically uninhabited, many well-preserved structures that date from the early and mid 19th century remain. This small, rural village and the surrounding landscape is unique in western Pennsylvania. The structures appear unchanged, frozen in that past time frame, outside the currents of time and change. Village growth from 1800 to 1880 depicts a variety of industrial activities, social and economic traditions, and lifestyles that were experienced by managers, laborers, and craftspeople. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1985, the village contains all the elements needed to tell the story of the transition from an early agrarian society to an industrial society. Other cultural sites in the region illustrate a single chapter of this transition; West Overton village chronicles the entire story.

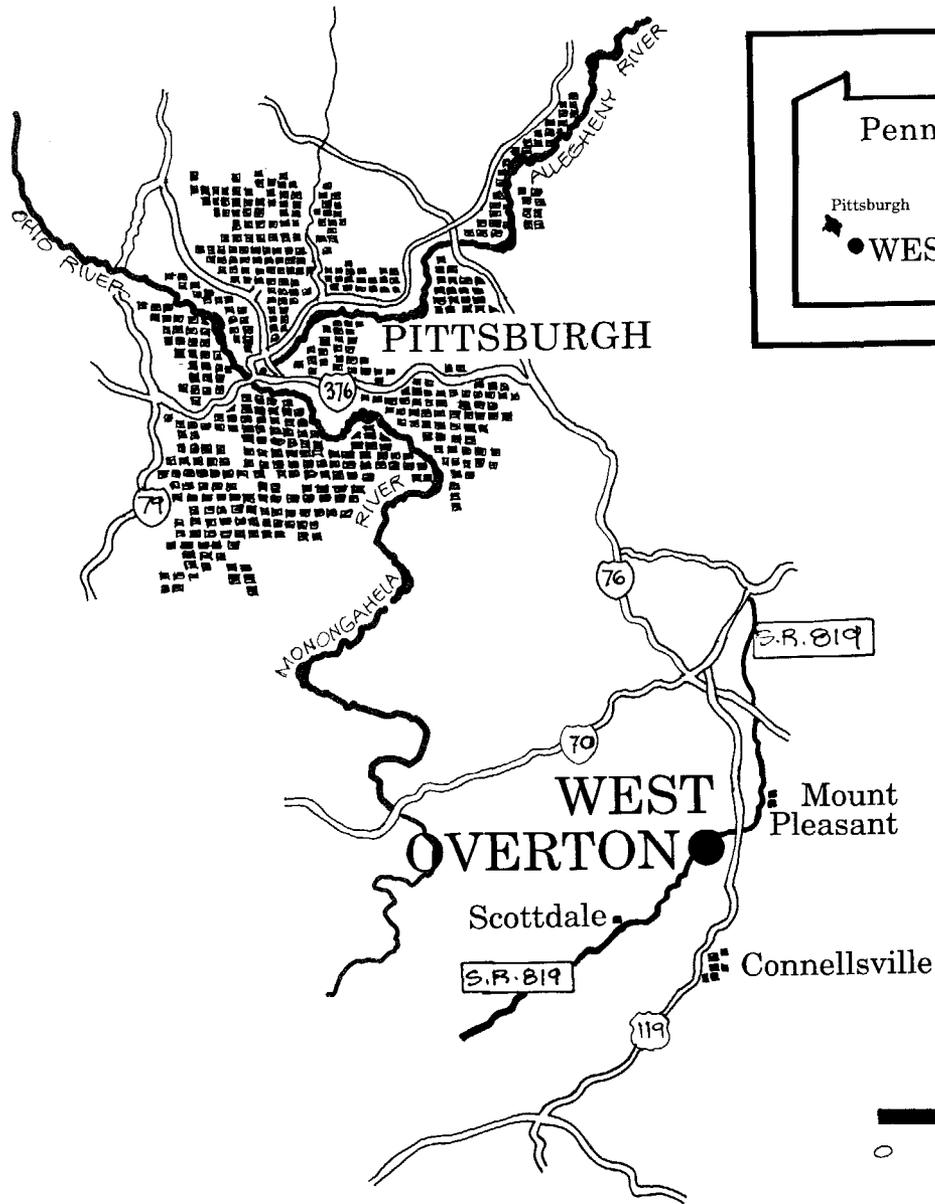
Today, most of the remaining structures are managed and owned by the West Overton Museums board of directors. (In fact, the village/site is currently called West Overton Museums.) Several buildings are open for visitors, and the village also has a significant collection of objects and archival materials. The village provides many educational, cultural, recreational, and research opportunities for the public.

### BRIEF HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The word diversity, so overused, has become almost meaningless. However, a true appreciation of the diversity — the depth and complexity of human culture and history — is essential for understanding the broad range of stories about the industrialization of southwestern Pennsylvania. Those stories are diverse — stories of conflict and cooperation, violent change and resilient continuity, and humans interacting with one another and their environment. The long process of industrialization in southwestern Pennsylvania conjures up images of enormous steel mills and blast furnaces, coal company towns, giant corporate railroads, enormous waves of immigration, and bloody clashes between labor and management. And all of these images are accurate.

However, the region has other stories of industrialization, as real and evocative as the stories of the rise of large-scale industries. In a handful of settings, industrial development was an almost gentle evolution from agricultural to industrial production. Preserving and interpreting these sites, such as West Overton, will increase our understanding

P e n n s y l v a n i a



Pennsylvania  
West Virginia

**LOCATION**

**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**  
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 987 • 20105 • OCT 93

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of the diversity of the region's industrial stories.

West Overton was founded by Henry Overholt, a Mennonite who established a farm there in 1803. Early on, weaving became an important part of the Overholt family economy. Farmers traditionally worked as weavers in their homes during slack winter months to raise extra cash. The Overholts eventually converted weaving from a strictly cottage industry into a small-scale industrial enterprise that employed workers from outside the family.

The Overholt farm was equipped with two stills; distilling was a traditional and essential part of life in western Pennsylvania. Whiskey production at the Overholt holdings gradually increased after Henry's son Abraham assumed full ownership in 1818. He added a gristmill in 1839, to prepare grain for distilling, and a malt house in 1850. By 1850 the Overholt distillery was producing 2,750 barrels of whiskey annually. The family had also established a cooperage on the site by at least 1850. The cooperage made whiskey barrels and casks for flour produced at the mill. Abraham also began raising hogs, which added a new source of revenue to the Overholt operations. The hogs ate the leftover mash from the distillery, which solved the problem of disposing of the mash.

Even as the Overholt holdings diversified and expanded, they remained remarkably self-contained. This distinctive characteristic of the West Overton operations owes at least a small debt to Mennonite traditions, religious beliefs, and farming techniques. The Mennonites had established reputations as particularly efficient and innovative farmers almost

200 years before in Germany and by the early 18th century in America. The Mennonites practiced crop rotation and waste recycling as essential parts of their agricultural practices. Their systematic and practical methods facilitated the continued diversification of the Overholt holdings at West Overton.

Despite a growing industrial presence in the village, the workdays remained somewhat irregular. The Overholts did not maintain a clock to regulate their workers' time, and the work pace adopted was more suited to the tasks of farming than the more regimented labor of industrial production. According to Senior Historic American Building Survey Historian Kim Hoagland, "many of the great changes to workers' lives instituted by nineteenth-century industry were absent at West Overton."<sup>1</sup> Work was often performed seasonally, and wages fluctuated in a manner much more consistent with a pre-industrial order.

The Overholts maintained a company store for their employees and later constructed worker tenements, but bonds of obligation between worker and manager did not extend beyond the boundaries of wages paid for services rendered. The social structure apparently did not include any emotional ties or loyalties to the Overholt family. Workers came and went as conditions warranted.

The growing commercial interests of the Overholt family gradually weakened the fabric of the Mennonite community. Although John D. Overholt, one of Henry's sons, became an ordained minister in 1830 and then a bishop in 1833, and Abraham was a respected elder in the church community, the Mennonite tradition seriously eroded in

<sup>1</sup> Hoagland, Kim. *Draft Report, Historic American Buildings Survey, West Overton, Pennsylvania.*

## INTRODUCTION

the next generation. A number of family members served in the Civil War, contradicting the Mennonite precepts against taking oaths, the use of force, and going to war. The family's growing distilling operation also appears inconsistent with Mennonite values. Whiskey drinking was linked to sloth and moral corruption, qualities not normally associated with the Mennonites.

However, if the Overholt family was led away from the Mennonite fold, it may have been because of Abraham's avid pursuit of material wealth and not simply because he did it by distilling whiskey. Mennonites could work within the material world but not be of it. Abraham, to the contrary, accumulated a large fortune and concerned himself with other worldly pursuits. He was active politically, both as a Whig and Republican, the two parties most closely associated with business and industry. Clearly, as the Overholts became better capitalists, they became worse Mennonites. The fact that Abraham was still acknowledged as an elder in the church may reflect the Mennonite community's pragmatic recognition of Overholt's predominant position in the community. However, West Overton's commercial success gradually weakened the village's ties to Mennonite tradition. The agricultural work patterns in the village eventually gave way to more structured but less personal rhythms of labor.

The last industrial enterprise of the Overholts was the most ambitious, and probably the most lucrative; it was also the one that most radically disrupted the fabric of the community. When the family began coking coal, the village became less self-sufficient, requiring a greater capital investment and a rail line to take its product to market. Coke production had far greater environmental impacts than

the earlier enterprises and a larger and more transient labor force.

Immigrant workers, who came as the village's economy shifted increasingly toward coke production, began to play a larger role in the labor force and created interesting dynamics and dramatic conflicts in the social and economic fabric of the community. The customs and behavior of southern and eastern Europeans often offended the Anglo-Saxon sensibilities of the American middle class, but capitalists also valued their cheap labor and potential as strikebreakers. American laborers, for the most part, resented these workers for reducing labor costs and cutting into native workers' earnings. However, when immigrant workers stood with other workers against management, they were generally accepted as equals. The village became more tightly linked and therefore more dependent on the outside world. The environmental deterioration associated with coke production signaled a significant departure from the earlier network of compatible enterprises.

Between 1860 and 1880, many people left the village, possibly because of the expansion of the coke operation. Perhaps this industry drove off more traditional workers, or better prospects in agriculture may have pulled workers back to the farm. The dramatic change in the fabric of the community may have alienated some workers. The shift to coke production significantly altered West Overton's social structure and almost certainly destroyed any remaining vestiges of its pre-industrial character. Labor organization did not become a factor in the village of West Overton until after 1880. The village experienced much of the same social unrest and violence that characterized southwestern Pennsylvania. The coming of Prohibition in 1919 also affected the village.

By the 1920s the Overholt family presence in the village had all but disappeared. Although the distillery bond warehouses have been razed, the village still retains a remarkable number of buildings that were important parts of the West Overton operation. The village exhibits the character and ambience of a mid 19th century community. The size and integrity of the village creates an unusual opportunity for interpreting this period of transition in American history.

One of the leading figures in American industrialization in the late 1880s and early 1900s received his initiation in industrial capitalism in West Overton coke production. Henry Clay Frick, the grandson of Abraham Overholt, began working as a bookkeeper in the family business. Frick's ambitious and ruthless personality led him to enter the coking industry and establish his own industrial empire. The examples of self-sufficiency and vertical integration (the control of every facet of one particular industry) that were such essential parts of the West Overton experience in all likelihood influenced Frick's own business strategy and later management of his extensive coke operations and the Carnegie Steel Works in Pittsburgh.

### **PROJECT VISION AND GOAL**

West Overton could be a place where visitors could understand how a once-isolated community responded to the growing commercial and industrial economy in southwestern Pennsylvania and the nation, and how its distinctive character was changed forever by the dynamic forces of industrialization. Many sites in southwestern Pennsylvania recall the story of industry on a grand scale. West Overton provides an outstanding example of the impact of these forces on a small and personal scale. The singular

qualities that make West Overton unique also provide an excellent opportunity to tell the story of industrialization's profound effects.

The following vision and goal were established for this project:

#### **Vision**

To create an interpretive village that centers around West Overton's most prosperous years (1850s-80s) and focuses on the village as an outstanding example of a rural industrial village, conveying the transition from an early agrarian society to an industrial one.

#### **Goal**

To conserve and promote the importance, uniqueness, and economic revitalization of West Overton village by creating opportunities for cultural, educational, and recreational activities.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of this document is to describe how the West Overton story can be told — i.e., what needs to happen. Where will the signs be that tell visitors that West Overton is something to see? Where will the visitor center be, if there is one? What buildings will be open to the public and what will be inside those buildings? How will visitors get around? Even where will the restrooms be? And there are questions regarding interpretation: What will visitors need to understand to really appreciate the village (these are called the interpretive themes and stories)? What kind of interpretive

## INTRODUCTION

media — movies, exhibits, audiovisual programs, etc. — will work most effectively to tell the stories? What would make this an enjoyable and educational experience for all ranges of visitors? Based on a great deal of research, analysis, and planning, the answers to these questions are the proposed plan, which is presented in the later "Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus" section. This is the plan that will provide the basic foundation, direction, and guidance for all future development in the village.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and amendments, the "Environmental Assessment" portion of this document evaluates the potential environmental impacts of implementing proposed federal actions on the human environment. The environmental assessment also determines whether implementation of the plan has significant enough effects to require an environmental impact statement. If the commission (described below) determines that the potential impacts resulting from the proposed action would not be significant, a finding of no significant impact will be prepared. If potential impacts are deemed significant, an environmental impact statement will be prepared.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PROJECT AND THE COMMISSION**

In 1985 the National Park Service was directed to survey a nine-county region in western Pennsylvania (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties). The survey proposed federal recognition of the region's significant cultural and natural resources related to

coal mining, iron and steelmaking, transportation, and related industrial themes, the area's social and labor history, and promotion of a greater appreciation of the importance of these to the nation's past and present. Congress directed the National Park Service to make a more detailed action plan for developing the region's resources, develop a program to implement the concepts embodied in the survey, and provide planning and technical assistance. The *Action Plan* was done, and the concept of identifying, preserving, and interpreting America's industrial heritage in southwestern Pennsylvania — the America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) — began.

In November 1988, and in accordance with the 1987 *Action Plan*, Congress found that

[T]he iron and steelmaking, coal, and transportation industries and the labor of their workers contributed significantly to America's movement westward, allowed for the growth of the Nation's cities, and helped fuel and move its industrial growth and development and establish its standing among nations of the world; [and that] there are only a few recognized historic sites that are devoted to portraying the development and growth of heavy industry and the industrial labor movement in America.

With this finding, Congress established the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission through the enactment of Public Law 100-698 (see appendix A). The commission is the agency in the Department of the Interior that, while focusing on industrial heritage, will ensure that the cultural heritage of the nine-county region is recognized, preserved, promoted, and interpreted for the benefit of the public while it protects scenic, recreational,

cultural, and natural resources. The commission is also charged with using preservation and interpretation of these resources and themes to help promote regional tourism and economic revitalization efforts. The commission, as the only public entity with a regional mandate encompassing all nine counties, will also encourage the preservation and interpretation of the area's other significant stories and resources to contribute to the overall quality of the visitors' experiences as well as the quality of life enjoyed by area residents.

An important part of the commission's mandate is to devise creative ways to protect, interpret, and manage those resources through a cooperative partnership. This partnership requires the efforts and resources of local, regional, state, and federal agencies, the private sector, and, most importantly, the residents of the region to combine promotion and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources. The commission's membership, set forth by Congress, reflects this partnership approach; members are from federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector. Congress has also committed federal funding to support the commission's efforts. The legislated life span of the commission is 10 years.

In 1986, before the commission was established, the National Park Service guided development of the America's Industrial Heritage Project. With the establishment and staffing of the commission, the National Park Service has become one of the commission's partners in efforts to preserve and

interpret the resources related to America's industrial heritage. The Park Service is providing project planning, design, historical preservation, and construction services and technical expertise to the commission.

As described above, West Overton is an important part of Pennsylvania's industrial heritage and the AIHP themes, especially the theme of labor and social history. West Overton Museums' education and conservation activities contribute significantly to southwestern Pennsylvania's heritage preservation programs. The commission and the National Park Service are assisting West Overton Museums in achieving its development and operations goals (see appendix B).

West Overton's location, within the nine counties, within commuting distance of a large potential audience (Pittsburgh), and close to the Pennsylvania Turnpike (9 miles away), the Lincoln Highway, and U.S. Highway 119, offers the village a significant role in Pennsylvania's industrial heritage interpretation and convenient year-round access. On the western perimeter of the AIHP's region, the site could provide eastbound travelers convenient orientation to the commission's heritage sites. Westbound travelers might find West Overton a suitable conclusion to their Pennsylvania industrial heritage experience. More importantly, the site capsules the process of early industrial growth for those visitors who can only visit one site in the region.

## PROCESS

To develop the schematic design/interpretive prospectus/environmental assessment — the plan to accomplish the vision and goals and to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the plan — a methodical process was established to ensure that all the issues and concerns were addressed in a logical manner. This process is shown on the following chart.

The first step in this process was to establish a basic data base. This included aerial photography and topographic mapping, collecting and assessing available research and historical information, sending out a newsletter/survey (see appendix C) to members of the community explaining what the project entails and soliciting ideas and opinions, and collecting data on existing conditions.

Once this data base was established, the planning team began a comprehensive analysis for the village and project area; determined the interpretive themes, issues, and desired visitor experience; and designed a system for evaluating the historic buildings in the village (historic architecture priority matrix).

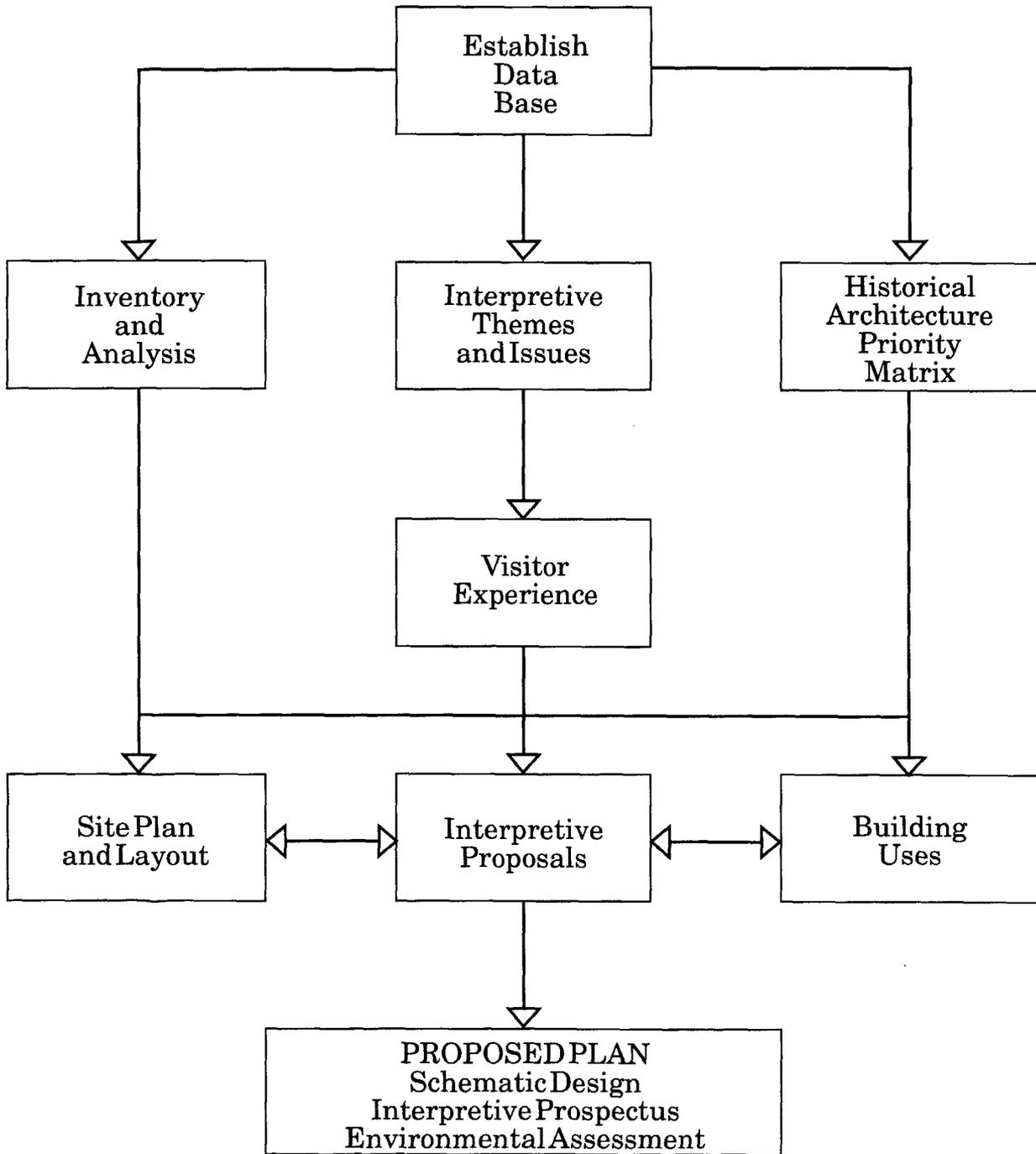
The inventory and analysis was completed for the cultural, natural, and visual resources, hazardous materials, socio-economic conditions, existing vehicular circulation and utility systems of the village; a projection for the anticipated

village visitation was also made. Even though some of the items inventoried did not have any noticeable impact on the final plan, they did contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the interrelationships of the entire project area.

The next step was to develop the basic concepts for the site plan and layout of the village, building uses, and interpretive proposals. The village site plan and layout address the visitor experience sequence, village circulation, parking, utilities, viewsheds, and land acquisition. Building uses address suitable uses for each building (based on the priority matrix), restoration and rehabilitation activities, and required immediate stabilization measures. The interpretive proposals involve the types and location of exhibits and various media and community involvement. These three elements evolved into the proposed plan for the village. The site plan and layout, building uses, and interpretive proposals have been combined and are described in "The Schematic Design/Interpretive Prospectus" section.

After analyzing and studying the existing conditions and developing a plan, the impacts of implementing the proposed plan were analyzed. The impacts are presented in the "Environmental Assessment" section.

# PROCESS



## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

As described in the previous "Process" section, the planning team studied existing conditions, did a considerable amount of research, analyzed several topics, and made a few basic decisions before developing a plan. Research included information about the area's physiography and topography, geology and soils, prime and unique farmlands, climate, air quality, water resources, floodplains and wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, possible hazardous materials, socioeconomic conditions, and existing utilities; these topics are described in the later "Affected Environment" section.

Also, the planning team did several different analyses — of existing historic structures/cultural resources, traffic, visitor use, potential visitation, possible archeological resources, soils, visual resources, desired visitor experiences, and which buildings would be best suited for which use (based on their historical architectural integrity). These topics and analyses are summarized below to give the reader a better basis for understanding the plan.

### EXISTING HISTORIC STRUCTURES

The West Overton Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places. The structures in the Historic District include the following structures (see Historic Conditions map):

1. The Abraham Overholt home, built in 1838 by Abraham Overholt. This is the oldest building in the district and the homestead of West Overton's founders.
2. The Overholt distillery, constructed in 1859. Grain was prepared here for

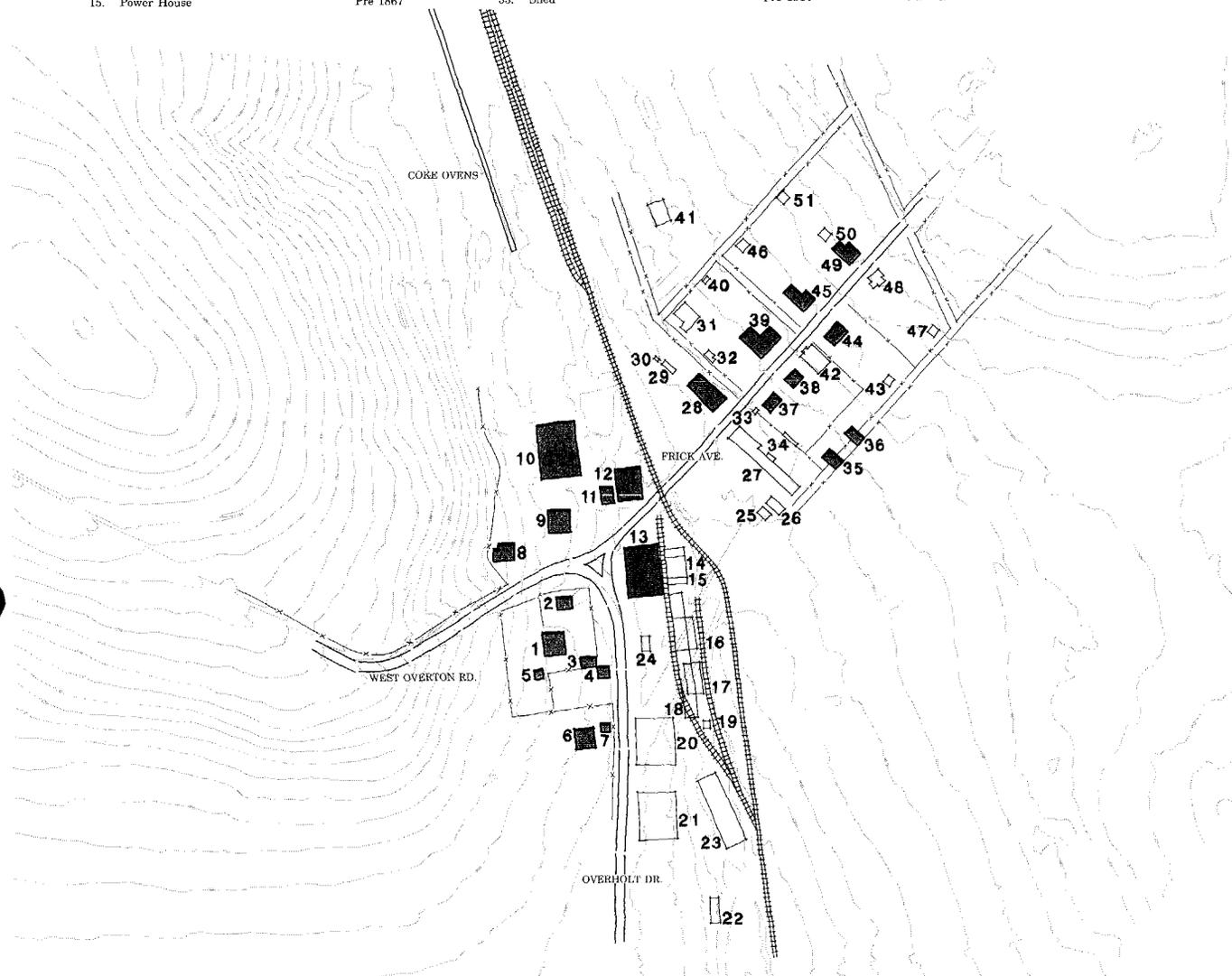
the Overholt distilling operation. As the main museum building, it is now part of the West Overton Museums.

3. The Overholt springhouse, adjacent to the A. Overholt home. Henry Clay Frick was born here in 1849.
4. The summer kitchen/washhouse, east of the main house.
5. The Overholt carriage house.
6. The smokehouse, southwest of the main house.
7. The stables, southeast of the main house.
8. Outbuilding.
9. A two-story farmhouse, part of the Overholt stock farm, that dates to circa 1880.
10. On the Overton stock farm, a small, three-story, brick barn that dates from at least 1876, as evidenced by its appearance on an 1876 atlas of West Overton.
11. On the Overton stock farm, a large, four-story, brick barn that dates from at least 1876.
12. A one-room building that functioned as a warehouse, general store, and post office, dating from at least 1876.
13. A small stable, dating from at least 1876.
14. H.S. Overholt house.
15. Christian Overholt house, which also served as a community store in 1876.
16. Worker house A, which appears on the 1876 atlas.
17. Worker house B, which appears on the 1876 atlas.
18. Worker house C, which appears on the 1876 atlas.
19. Worker house D, which appears on the 1876 atlas.
20. Worker house F, which appears on the 1876 atlas.

The Christian Overholt house and Henry S. Overholt house, and the remaining

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES

Str. No.	Structure Name	Constr. Date	Str. No.	Structure Name	Constr. Date	Str. No.	Structure Name	Constr. Date
1.	Overholt Homestead/A. Overholt House	1838	16.	Boiler House	1906	34.	Shed	Pre 1908
2.	Overholt Springhouse/Cottage	c. 1810	17.	Dry House	1906	35.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1867
3.	Summer House/Bake House/Kitchen	Sept. 19, 1862	18.	Illeg Pens	Pre 1876	36.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1876
4.	Shed/Carriage House/Garage	c. 1862	19.	Oil House	c. 1906	37.	Worker House-A	Pre 1854
5.	Smokehouse/Outbuilding	Post 1838	20.	U.S. Bonded Warehouse-A	1906	38.	Worker House-B	Pre 1876
6.	Stables/Barn	1855	21.	U.S. Bonded Warehouse-B	1909	39.	C.S. Overholt House and Store	Pre 1854
7.	Shed/Hog Pen	c. 1855	22.	Store House	1883	40.	Shed	Pre 1929
8.	Farmhouse/Tenant House	Post 1880	23.	Bottling House	1910	41.	Henry S. Overholt Barn	c. 1866
9.	Overton Stock Farm-Barn/Stable/Garage	Pre 1867	24.	Office	c. 1906	42.	Union Church (Mt. Pleasant Baptist)	1886
10.	Barn	Pre 1867	25.	Outbuilding	Pre 1908	43.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1867
11.	Stable/Garage/Buggy/Wagon Carriage House	Pre 1867	26.	Outbuilding	Pre 1908	44.	Worker House-C	Pre 1857
12.	Warehouse/General Storage/Dwelling/Garage/Stable	Pre 1867	27.	Tenement House/Factory Building	1876	45.	Worker House-D	Pre 1867
13.	Overholt Distillery/Mill/Museum/Post Office	1859	28.	A.S. Overholt/B.F. Overholt House	c. 1846	46.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1857
14.	Fermenting House/Vat House	c. 1913	29.	Ice House	c. 1846	47.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1867
15.	Power House	Pre 1867	30.	Privy/Shed	c. 1846	48.	Worker House-E	Pre 1857
			31.	Carriage House/Storehouse	c. 1846	49.	Worker House-F	Pre 1857
			32.	Shed	Pre 1914	50.	Outbuilding	Pre 1876
			33.	Shed	Pre 1914	51.	Shed/Stable	Pre 1867



LEGEND

-  Existing Historic Structure
-  Former Village Structure (nonexisting)
-  Historic Fence Line
-  Former Location of Railroad Tracks
-  Historic Road Alignment
-  Historic Coke Ovens



**HISTORIC  
CONDITIONS**

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

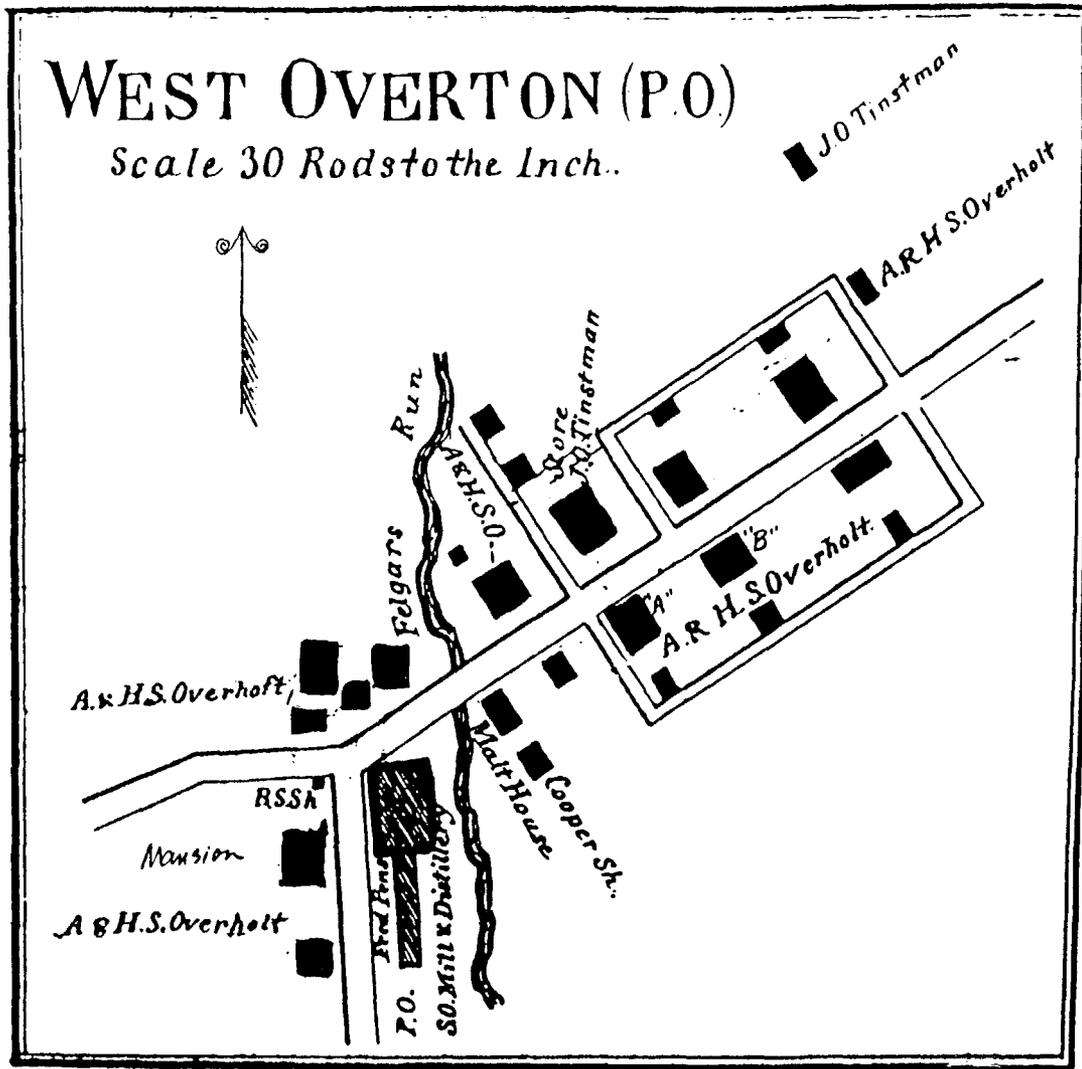
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EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

houses on Frick Avenue, with the exception of one intruding structure, appear on an 1867 atlas of West Overton

and provided housing for workers in the village (see 1867 West Overton Business Directory).



**WEST OVERTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY.**

- A. & H. S. Overholt...Principal Millers, Distillers and Grain Dealers.**
- A. S. R. Overholt...Principal Clerk and Cashler.**
- Jacob O. Tintzman...Head Distiller.**
- C. S. R. & J. S. R. Overholt...Assistant Distillers.**
- Jacob Booher...Head Miller.**
- Booher, Shrader & Bryan...Assistant Millers.**
- F. Hunker, Ridenour, Wilson, Booher & Stovenson...Coopers.**

1867 West Overton business directory

## **VEHICULAR CIRCULATION WITHIN THE VILLAGE**

The construction of S.R. 819 in 1930 affected the village in many ways. The road bisected the village along the eastern half of the worker house area, creating a barrier to the remainder of the historic village. This boundary makes it difficult to interpret the full extent of the historic village. Traffic has increased over the last 60 years, and S.R. 819 has created many unsafe situations within the village, mainly because pedestrians are expected to share the village road with vehicles that often travel above the posted speed.

Area residents access S.R. 819 by way of village roads. The roads are basically in their historic configuration, but they were not designed to accommodate the current level of use. Three intersections (Frick Avenue/S.R. 819, Overholt Street/S.R. 819, and Frick Avenue/Overholt Street/West Overton Road) have been identified as hazardous in the vehicular circulation analysis. A map and more detailed information is in appendix D.

The other issues involving vehicular circulation at the site are noise, entrance signs, and parking. The noise produced by traffic on S.R. 819 is audible throughout the site and is intrusive.

Currently, it may be difficult for a visitor to find the village. There are no signs indicating a turnoff/approach to the village along the highways. There is no distinct sense of arrival or acknowledgment that one has entered a special place. The northern end of the village is a logical point to alert visitors that they have entered the historic village.

Parking in the village appears adequate for the current level of visitation. However, the main parking area in front

of the A. Overholt house lacks definition and intrudes on the core historic area.

## **ISSUES RELATED TO TELLING THE WEST OVERTON STORY — INTERPRETATION**

Many changes — including a trailer court adjoining the historic district, residential use of privately owned historic and modern structures within the district, and traffic in and near the village — interfere with the perception of a 19th century rural village. The human element of the village environment — the routine life of historic residents that added a vibrancy and heartbeat to the village — is missing. These potential impacts on visitor experiences should be considered in designing a plan for restoring this historic village.

West Overton is expected to attract a wide variety of visitors. Groups from regional schools will seek educational experiences at the site; local residents will visit frequently to participate in activities; many out-of-state, one-time visitors will respond to America's Industrial Heritage Project promotions. Mill/distillery enthusiasts will want detailed interpretation of West Overton's mill and distillery operations. How long visitors stay will depend upon their interests, motivations, and time. Those seeking information, rest facilities, and a visit to the core interpretive area may stay as little as 30 minutes. For those with sufficient time and interest, a visit of two hours or more should be anticipated. Multifaceted experiences must be provided to meet the demands of these varied audiences and interests.

Facilities must be safe, enjoyable, and open for year-round visitor access without adversely affecting the village's resources. Providing access for visitors

with disabilities will be a challenge. Currently, stairs are the only access to the five-floor distillery, and only the basement of the Abraham Overholt house is accessible to mobility impaired visitors. Other buildings offering potential interpretive use have similar access problems.

The community perceives West Overton primarily as a commemoration of Henry Clay Frick's achievements. Prior to 1987, the Frick story dominated the historic site; since then interpretation has presented the site as a historic village with significance surpassing the accomplishment of one person. Interpretive efforts should build the image of West Overton village as many people contributing to a dynamic community.

The artifact collection, currently displayed as a general history museum, includes objects relating to prehistoric times and 20th century history and culture, making it difficult for the staff to concentrate on the site's primary historic significance and primary themes.

A small staff and limited budget constrain current operations and development potential. The primary source of West Overton Museums' annual budget phases out within five years. Maintaining current operations and future improvements demand new sources of funding. Proposals for site development, interpretive facilities, and media and personal services must consider current limitations and promote the village's future economic vitality.

Interpretive media (exhibits, movies, audiovisual programs, etc.) should complement personal services and other development and management activities, be innovative and exciting but durable and easily maintained by onsite staff, and address the issues concerning the village's current interpretive program.

Programs and activities should develop the community's pride in their contributions to America's industrial development, which would encourage a feeling of community ownership in the village and its activities.

Managers at other cultural interpretation facilities should be involved in planning activities, and program and activities planners should develop a spirit of cooperation. Many Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission projects provide opportunities for cooperative planning. For example, the Scottdale museum presents preservation and education activities related to local history, and Somerset Historical Center demonstrates the progression that occurred in western Pennsylvania farming from 1790 to the 20th century.

## VISITATION ANALYSIS

One important factor to consider before developing a plan for West Overton village is the number of visitors that would need to be accommodated. This estimate affects many aspects of the plan — how big and how many parking areas might be needed, how big the visitor center would need to be to accommodate those visitors, what kind of traffic the roads would need to accommodate, etc.

To estimate potential visitation to West Overton, four regional sites — Old Economy Village, Somerset Historical Center, Fort Ligonier, and Old Bedford Village — were compared. Each site is in the Pittsburgh market area and would have similar regional tourism patterns. Also, each site is easily accessible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Interpretive facilities and programs offered at each facility were also considered. Detailed results can be found in appendix E.

Based on visitation figures at the four comparison sites, a conservative estimate of 30,000 visitors a year would be anticipated after completion of the proposed project. If West Overton village follows trends at the four comparison sites, 25%–33% of the total annual visitors would come during special events. Currently, about 43% of the total annual visitors at West Overton reside in Westmoreland County. Expanded marketing efforts through West Overton's partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission and Laurel Highlands would likely help increase visitation.

### **ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ANALYSIS**

The archeological program being conducted at West Overton has provided preliminary information concerning the location, condition, and extent of cultural resources within the village. This information was considered in developing the plan for interpreting and rehabilitating the existing facilities (see appendix F for details about this program). Completion of this and future programs will provide the archeological support necessary to ensure compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470) and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR part 800).

### **SOIL ANALYSIS**

Five soil series comprise the West Overton site: Wharton silt loam, Atkins silt loam, Ernest silt loam, Cavode silt loam, and strip mine spoil. The characteristics of these soils and their relationship to and implications for development and construction at the West Overton site are described in detail in appendix

G. Most of the site is composed of soils with slight to moderate development limitations.

### **VISUAL ANALYSIS**

An important part of comprehending the relevance of a historic site is a setting that remains similar to its historic condition. This setting provides the necessary context for interpreting the village. Because modern development has intruded on the historic setting in a few locations in and around West Overton, visualizing the village as it once was is much more difficult. It is important that visitors have the opportunity to sense and see what village life was like during West Overton's most prosperous period.

The historic district and the village are the most visually sensitive areas because they are the focal points for visitors. The Abraham Overholt homestead area and the setting around the Overton stock farm structures retain a high degree of historical character. The agricultural fields and the hillside northwest of the site provide open space that contributes to the historic landscape as well as the visitor experience. Currently, there are no zoning ordinances to help protect visual resources inside or outside the village.

The planning team mapped the primary visual boundary visible from within the village (called the village viewshed). The primary viewshed was divided into four categories — historic village core, farmland, trailer park, and residential areas. Eight viewpoints that highlight important historical components of the village were also identified, as were intrusive elements. This analysis helped the planning team realize what views were important to retain or reestablish and what elements need to be eliminated

to achieve the desired experience for visitors. Details of this analysis are in appendix H.

## **ANALYSIS OF DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

### **Creating an Experience for Visitors**

The visitor experience may be described as those memories visitors create during their contact with a place. Those memories are often few and characterized by feelings rather than knowledge. The memories may be composed of contacts with site personnel, exhibits, or presentations in a historic building. Often the most memorable experiences happen informally. The cool shade of a tree on a summer afternoon or a stroll in the footsteps of historic residents along a village street may be a visitor's most memorable experience. Visitor experiences should allow them to develop a "sense of place" and enable them to understand the village in context with the lifestyles of its historic residents.

The visitor's experience with West Overton should begin long before arrival at the village. Visitors should be attracted by signs on access roads, promotion through other southwestern Pennsylvania heritage sites and the news media, educational activities at regional schools, and brochures distributed through state and regional visitor centers. Descriptions of potential experiences at the village should create anticipation and excitement for those experiences. Pre-arrival contacts should introduce the image of a historic village in a rural environment, a small community of people surrounded by pastoral landscapes, a place where past lifestyles contrast with the visitor's daily experiences.

As visitors near the village their expectations should heighten, perhaps through a glimpse of the historic streetscape or a restored building waiting to be explored. The point of arrival should provide a positive visual impression. The glimpses previously experienced should suddenly merge into a view of a complete village representing a vibrant community of people, life, and activity. Visitors should feel they are on the edge of an insulated environment with a variety of exciting experiences that evoke the question "What do I want to see first?"

Parking should be convenient to the primary interpretive area, accessible to visitors with disabilities, and sufficient for weekends, holidays, or special events. Orientation near the parking area should welcome visitors, provide an overview of the site, introduce the agriculture-to-industry theme, and provide clear directions.

All visitors should find experiences to fit their own desired level of involvement with the site. A major objective is to excite visitors to participate in a variety of activities throughout the village. Types of experiences needed include the following:

- orientation — to help visitors know what opportunities are available
- education — to provide visitors the knowledge they need to understand the village resources and their significance, and what the visitor can and should not do
- recreation — to encourage resource-based recreational activities that do not detract from natural, cultural, and scenic values of the site

- interpretation — to create an environment that enables visitors to understand the historic environment (1800–80) of West Overton village, foster public understanding and appreciation of primary themes through an innovative interpretive program, involve visitors in interactive experiences that replicate the historic resident's experiences, instill a sense of discovery, and provide visitors a variety of experiences that lead to understanding of how vertical integration of agriculture and industry expanded the community's economic vitality

To meet the needs of a varied audience, interpretive media should present four kinds of interpretive experiences.

Introductory exhibits should provide orientation and answer basic questions: What precipitated West Overton's development? Why was the village located here? What were the short- and long-term impacts of West Overton? How did village activities relate to other actions in 19th century Pennsylvania?

A movie should present the context, chronology, and vitality of West Overton Village in a short, dramatic format.

Distillery exhibits describing distilling operations, along with other media throughout the village, should provide more detailed interpretation of the broad concepts presented in the movie and introductory exhibits. Experiences with tangible elements of the many components that made West Overton a successful village should help visitors understand how activities such as farming, mining,

coking, and distilling were conducted in the 19th century and how those processes differ from today.

Visitors interested in exceptionally detailed information should have access to books to buy, personnel to answer questions and provide a one-on-one discussion of related topics, recommended texts, and directions to reference libraries and other sites in Pennsylvania.

There should be a core interpretive area in which all visitors could participate, including an orientation facility, the distillery, and the A. Overholt homestead. Self-guiding walking tours should allow visitors to see and experience the cultural landscape and other village structures, including the stock farm, the coke ovens, coal mine, railroad site, and residential area. Visitor experience zones, described in appendix I, were also identified to help develop an effective plan.

### **What Visitors Would Learn — Interpretive Themes**

Along with an analysis of the visual resources (how should the historic visual setting be retained/reestablished), the planning team also analyzed what was important for visitors to learn about West Overton. Interpretation is a process of education that is designed to stimulate curiosity and convey messages to the visiting public. The determination of these messages — the interpretive themes — and their context in modern society is important. Building uses and restorations were decided based in part on the following two interpretive themes and subthemes that were developed for West Overton.

**1. West Overton village contains significant resources that preserve southwestern Pennsylvania's cultural heritage.**

West Overton village is an outstanding example of a community that made the transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy. The village's cultural resources are as worthy of protection as one of southwestern Pennsylvania's most intact 19th century rural industrial villages. The diversity of natural and cultural resources at the village create rich opportunities for visitor recreation and education.

West Overton's geographic location provided access to resources and markets that were essential for the village's successful development. Nearby roads and railroads provided a means for distributing goods produced at West Overton. All the natural resources necessary for birth and growth of diversified industries — arable land, coal, suitable climate, timber, water — were abundant in the region. Relationships between West Overton's natural resources and human history offer a vivid perspective on past and present conservation practices.

West Overton is a significant representative of the major economies deeply rooted in early Pennsylvania history. The village contains resources that illustrate the entrepreneurial spirit that blossomed in western Pennsylvania in the 19th century. At one location there is evidence of agriculture, the coal and coke industries, and the transportation industry, and through these

industries connections can be made to other significant industries such as iron and steel. West Overton is a preface to other western Pennsylvania industrial stories.

**2. Integration of agricultural and industrial enterprises at West Overton created economic diversity that enhanced the village's growth during the 19th century.**

Cultural traditions carried from Europe and nurtured in America guided West Overton's social and industrial evolution. The efficient and innovative agricultural techniques used by the Mennonites enabled the Overholts to develop a successful farming community. That Mennonite efficiency and practicality laid the groundwork for West Overton's efficient vertical integration of production industries. West Overton Mennonite tradition diminished in the face of the community's evolving capitalist economy.

The Overholt's patriarchal family structure provided the framework for West Overton's social and economic organization. Abraham's work ethic facilitated the transition from agriculture to industry. The Overholt example of self-sufficiency and vertical integration that were such essential parts of West Overton provided Henry Clay Frick, one of America's leading industrial figures, his initiation in industrial capitalism.

The availability of experienced workers from nearby communities created a culturally

homogenous social structure among the work force, but West Overton's industrial development created a stratified economic structure with three distinct levels — managers, skilled craftsmen, and unskilled laborers.

The Overholt's operations remained largely self-contained through the systematic development of many interrelated industries — distilling, weaving, milling, cooperage, and coal mining. Agricultural work rhythms continued to shape the pace of activity in West Overton's industries during most of its history.

Coking, an industry that could not be sustained within the village, introduced changes that radically altered the fabric of the community — a larger, transient, culturally diverse work force; intense, scheduled, repetitive work rhythms; and increased environmental impacts. With the onset of Prohibition, West Overton lost one of the essential defining features of its economic and social characteristics.

## **ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY**

To help make decisions regarding the use and alteration of the historic buildings in

the village, Landmarks Design Associates of Pittsburgh was commissioned by the Park Service to develop a priority matrix. Landmarks Design Associates ranked the importance of the individual structures in terms of their uniqueness. For instance, the Greek Revival architectural style of the farmhouse is found throughout the region. Worker houses from this era, on the other hand, are rare. The matrix provided a reasoned and consistent approach to this decision-making process. The report also examined the character-defining attributes of each structure to establish a quantitative system for evaluating the impact of each proposed use and physical alteration. The priority matrix and a more detailed description of this analysis is in appendix J.

In summary, Landmarks Design Associates determined that (1) the setting is the most critical visual character of mid 19th century West Overton because so much of the townscape exists unchanged since that time, (2) the buildings, collectively but for the most part not individually, are significant architecturally, and facades should be restored to their original appearances, (3) building additions should not be necessary, (4) worker houses A, B, and C are unique in western Pennsylvania and should be preserved, (5) the distillery, because its original equipment and space differentiations are gone, is suitable for adaptive use, and (6) the barn and distillery would easily accommodate active use, whereas the other structures would be better for passive uses.

## SCHEMATIC DESIGN/INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

After completing the inventory and analyses of existing conditions and defining the issues and desired visitor experiences, the planning team developed a proposed plan to meet the vision and goals and to provide the basic foundation, direction, and guidance for all future development in the village.

There are several objectives of the proposed plan: (1) re-create the historic village and setting and provide areas for special events, (2) maximize the existing pastoral setting and minimize intrusive elements, (3) reduce vehicular and pedestrian conflict by eliminating conflict areas, and (4) create links with the area's existing recreational and cultural facilities.

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN

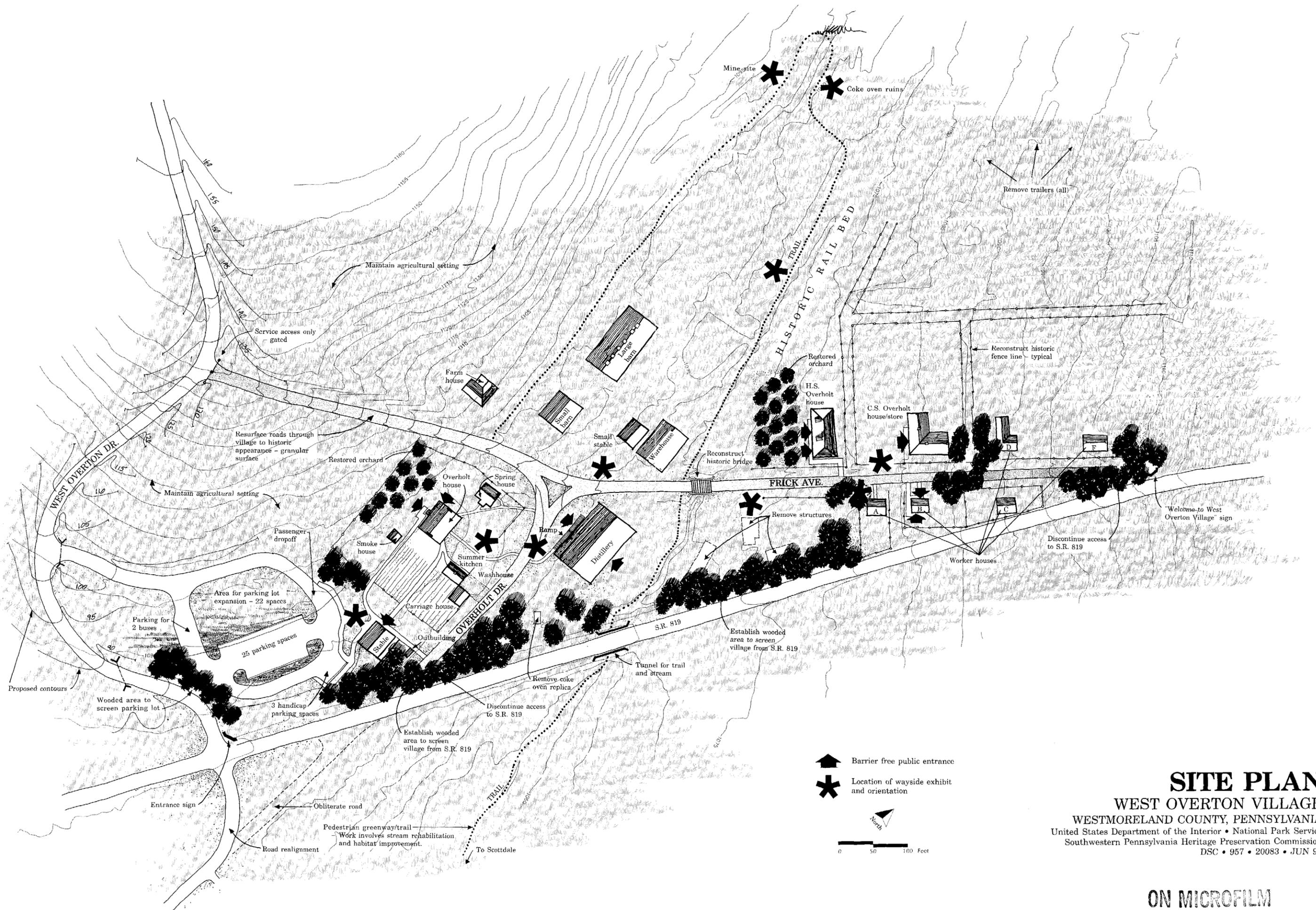
Visitors traveling south on S.R. 819 would catch glimpses of the distillery and the worker houses along Frick Avenue. Signs along S.R. 819 would announce the approach to the village, and a new entrance road to the village would be constructed at West Overton Road. Once on West Overton Road, visitors would be directed into the parking/dropoff area near the stable on the new access drive. The parking lot orientation would maximize the views of the existing open farmland at the edge of the village. To minimize the negative visual impacts, the parking lot would be screened by constructing it into the hillside and adding mounding. Visitors approaching the Abraham Overholt homestead could see the Overholt family buildings with the pastoral farmland background.

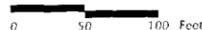
Prompt contact with arriving visitors is crucial to provide basic information and

effective orientation and to help visitors choose what they want to see. Although personal service — one-on-one interactions with visitors — is the desirable means of orienting visitors to the site, limited staff often imposes a balance between self-service and personal service contacts. To meet this balance at West Overton, orientation and information would be provided at two locations — the Overholt homestead stable and the distillery. Initial visitor orientation to the general layout of the village would be in the rehabilitated first level of the old stable adjacent to the parking lot. From here, visitors could choose what they want to visit next. If they desire a more thorough orientation, they would be directed to the distillery. The Site Plan gives a general overview of the plan and approximate locations of interpretive exhibits.

During its heyday the distillery was the activity center of the village; under the proposed plan the distillery would remain a focal point as the village's main orientation and interpretive center. It would include exhibit areas, community meeting rooms, a multipurpose theater, a gift shop, and the library and archives. The buildings along Frick Avenue would mainly be adaptively reused. Uses would vary depending upon demand. Potential possible uses are a restaurant, bed-and-breakfast, professional offices, small retail shops, and rental residences. One of the worker houses, however, would be restored/refurnished to depict the life of a typical worker.

In addition to rehabilitating many of the building facades and interiors, the historic village setting would be restored in other ways. Agricultural practices that create the pastoral farmland setting



 Barrier free public entrance  
 Location of wayside exhibit and orientation  
 North  
 0 50 100 Feet

**SITE PLAN**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**  
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
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*J. P. [Signature]*

would be maintained within the village viewshed. The bituminous surface of the existing roads throughout the village would be removed and replaced with a stabilized gravel surface. The historic pattern of roads within the village would be reestablished (as much as possible), and several dangerous intersections would be corrected. Roads would be used predominantly by pedestrians. A bridge similar to what existed historically would replace the culvert at Felgars Run crossing. All visually intrusive nonhistoric buildings would be removed, and overhead utility lines would be buried. The Overholt family orchard would be re-created, as well as some of the kitchen and herb gardens by the Overholt summer kitchen and worker houses.

A loop trail west of the stock farm would allow interpretation of several industrial ruins sites (coal mine, coke oven, and railroad bed). This trail would continue south and link to Scottdale by creating a pedestrian/bicycle greenway along Felgars Run, creating a link to other area recreational and cultural facilities.

The plan also includes a travelers information station, collection of oral histories, site brochures and a handbook, plans for organizing special events and educational/community programs, community involvement, land acquisition priorities, plans for utility lines, and staffing needs.

## **THE PROPOSED PLAN**

The first part of this section describes how the historic buildings would be restored and what visitors would see and learn as they tour the village. For purposes of this description, the village is divided into four main areas: (1) the A. Overholt homestead — stables, spring-house/cottage, summer kitchen/

washhouse, carriage house, smokehouse, outbuilding, and house, (2) the distillery, (3) the Overholt stock farm — farmhouse, large and small barns, warehouse, and small stable, and (4) the residential area — H.S. Overholt house, C.S. Overholt house/store, and worker houses A–D and F. The floor plans and proposed uses for each of the structures are included at the end of the text description of the structures. Many of the structures are in need of immediate stabilization measures (described in appendix K), some of which have been done. A summarized scope of work for the structures is in appendix L.

The latter part of this section describes the other aspects of the plan — such as re-creating the village's historic setting, reducing vehicular and pedestrian conflicts, interpretive needs, organizing special events and community involvement, land acquisition priorities, needed utilities, and staffing needs.

### **Abraham Overholt Homestead**

An orientation wayside exhibit (see *Waysides and Interpretive Media* inset) adjacent to the parking lot with a view of the village would portray the village as an insulated environment surrounded by a rural landscape, a vibrant historic community that still offers visitors exciting experiences. It should give visitors a sense of what they are going to learn about West Overton — this town that went from agriculture to industry in a gentle transition.

**Stables.** This would be the first structure that people would pass as they leave the parking area. The small room on the ground level of the north side of the building would be staffed and serve to welcome visitors, provide a site overview, distribute a site brochure, and direct visitors to the distillery; tickets for

*Waysides and Interpretive Media*

*Wayside exhibits are interpretive panels designed to be outside. They may include text, photos, paintings, or graphics to orient visitors, introduce interpretive areas, or interpret specific sites and stories. Waysides have the advantage over many media and personal services in that they are relatively inexpensive, can be adapted to almost any location, can be read by visitors at their own pace, and can be used at all times without supervision.*

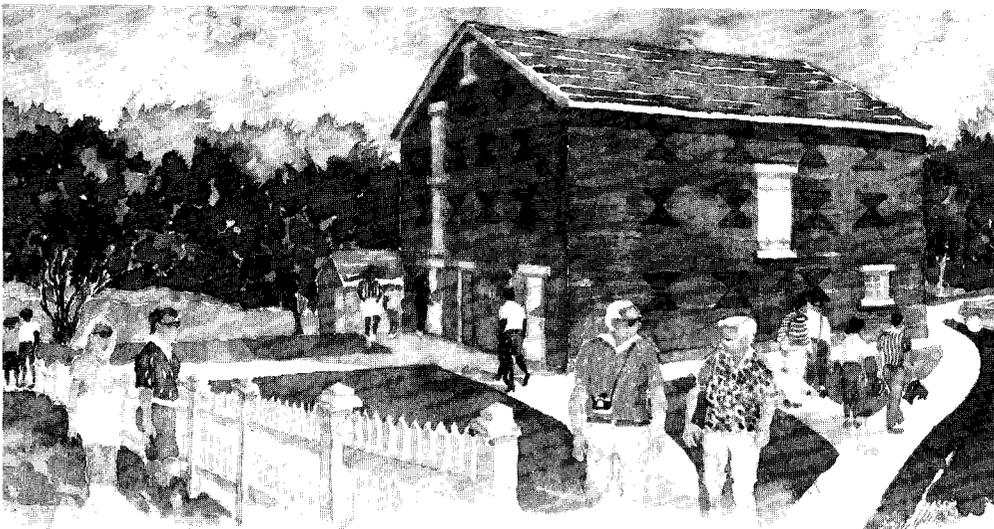
*Ten orientation and interpretive wayside exhibits are proposed for West Overton to (1) preface each interpretive area within the village, (2) provide basic information to visitors who cannot or choose not to participate in the full range of available interpretive experiences, and (3) provide specific interpretation at locations such as mine sites, railroad beds, and oven sites where little physical evidence remains of significant historical features.*

*Waysides in the historic area should be sensitively located to convey desired messages without intruding on the historic scene. Exact locations and content will be selected during preparation of a wayside exhibit plan.*

*Wayside exhibits, as well as other signs in the park, would have a common design element — color scheme, format, or type style — to give visitors a sense of continuity.*

the house tour would be obtained here, and entrance fees would also be collected. The space should be easily accessible, appealing, and highly visible from the parking lot. The unique design of this building would be maintained, and the building would be restored. The stable itself would be sparsely furnished to represent stalls for the Overholt's riding and carriage stock. The first and second level lofts would be stabilized (see A. Overholt Structures floor plans at the end of this discussion).

The location and design of the stables would also allow it to function as an after-hours orientation station for visitors arriving after staffed facilities were closed or for unstaffed orientation during times when visitor use is not heavy. Three upright exhibit panels in a partially sheltered portion of the structure would orient visitors to the village and introduce the site's primary theme — the transition from agriculture to industry. One panel might present a village map and a box to distribute brochures that include a copy of the map. The other panels might interpret the village's agricultural origin and preface the village's agriculture-related industries. The panels would be designed



Stables

and constructed to withstand weather variances and potential vandalism.

One area in the southeast corner would be used to provide information about other regional facilities and attractions.

**Springhouse/Cottage.** This small structure, the birthplace of Henry Clay Frick, would be used for interpretive purposes. Because the building was completely rebuilt in the 1920s, research would be necessary to determine its original appearance. No floor plan changes are contemplated for this building unless research shows that the original configuration of the internal spaces is different than what exists today.

The lower level would be furnished as the primary water source and cool storage area for the Overholt family. Sparse furnishings would be required (see Historic Furnishings inset). (This level would not be accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.) The first floor would be restored/refurnished as cottage rooms to tell about the expansion of the Overholt family and introduce Henry Clay Frick, his initiation into industrial capitalism, and how the village experience provided by A. Overholt influenced Frick in his role in the development of the coal and coke and iron and steel industries. The attic would remain vacant. The grape arbor on the west side would be restored.

**Summer Kitchen/Washhouse.** This building would be used to show life on the homestead and how the summer kitchen and washhouse were used. No changes are proposed for this building. It would be reused as it was originally, with the western room as the summer kitchen and the eastern room as the washhouse. The kitchen would be furnished as if the cook had just begun to prepare a meal and should also accommodate occasional

#### HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

*Historic furnishings are recommended for several Abraham Overholt homestead structures. Furnishings are the best media to illustrate the lifestyle of individuals who engineered West Overton's industrial evolution and provided the framework for the community's social and economic organization. Historic furnishings have several advantages over other media. They increase historic integrity of spaces by providing visitors physical connections to the past. Visitors can compare objects used by different households to assess relative economic and social status. The village's large artifact collection contains a few pieces of overholt furniture that would help to illustrate the lifestyle of historic occupants.*

*A later furnishings plan will identify appropriate objects and specify placement that effectively interprets each room's historic use. A description of building contents prepared by Abraham Overholt's grandson provides accurate information for plan development.*

cooking demonstrations. The attached washhouse might display items to support the historic use as a laundry, such as a table, chairs, washtub, and scrub-board. An open display would explain the historic use of these two structures.

**Carriage House.** The carriage house, designed originally to hold the family's main carriage, is a simple small structure with only one space. It would be reused to exhibit a carriage, which could help illustrate the Overholt's prominent economic position in the community. No floor plan changes are contemplated for this building. The interior surfaces would require restoration for this use.

**Smokehouse.** This small structure would be restored as a smokehouse exhibit. No floor plan changes are planned for this building initially; if further research indicates that details of the building have been altered, restoration would be considered.

**Outbuilding.** This small structure would be used as an exhibit, and no restoration would take place.

**Abraham Overholt House.** The Abraham Overholt house retains much of its exterior appearance, but the interior has undergone several alterations. This relatively intact building would be used mainly as a house museum where visitors could get a broad, well-rounded understanding of the family history, accomplishments, and imprint on the community, and the Overholt family's

personal characteristics and how the house, grounds, and dependencies exemplify those characteristics. The cultural traditions they brought to West Overton — Mennonite practicality, efficiency, innovation, and work ethic — facilitated the village's transition from agriculture to industry. A wayside exhibit inside the fence at the front gate to the Abraham Overholt house would interpret the life and achievements of the patriarchal family that created and managed the village. The exhibit would also encourage visitors to pause and enjoy the manmade environment the Overholts were able to create for themselves.

Few interior changes are proposed for this building. For use as a house museum, the rooms, corridors, stairs, and details would be left intact or restored. The ground floor southern side, although



A. Overholt house

originally a root cellar, would remain in use for mechanical services and rest-rooms for the building. The two rooms on the north side would be restored/refurnished as the kitchen and dining rooms (see A. Overholt House floor plan at the end of this discussion).

On the first floor, the southwest room would be restored/refurnished as the children's bedroom. (This would include removing the existing bathroom and closet and reinstalling the interconnecting door.) The northwest room would be a guest bedroom. The front (east) rooms would be restored/refurnished as Abraham Overholt's bedroom and the Overholt's parlor. The center hall and front porch would also be restored. The parlor restoration would require removal of the canvas murals that were added in the 1920s. These murals have intrinsic

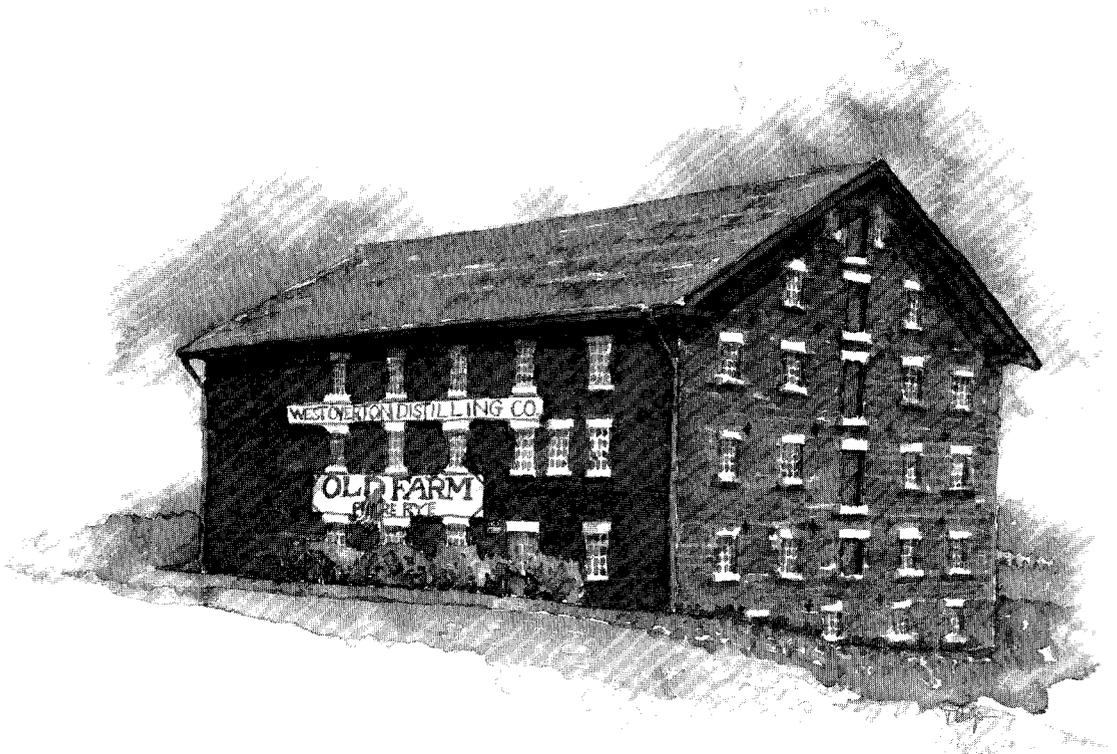
historic value, and they would be restored and placed in the distillery.

The second floor would continue as administrative offices. No changes in the existing second floor plan would be made. The attic would be used for storage and possibly the second-floor furnace.

Visitors would enter through the first floor front door and exit through the ground-level kitchen. Visitors with disabilities could access the first floor through the rear entrance, exit through the same door, and reenter the building on the ground level to see the kitchen and dining room.

### **Distillery**

A wayside exhibit along the historic road near the distillery's southwest corner



Distillery

would interpret the distillery as the focal point for village life, the hub of agriculture-based industrial activity, and the symbol of vertical integration that sustained the village.

Because it is the largest building and because all of the original machinery and most of the individual characteristics that defined the interior as a distillery are gone, the distillery is the most likely candidate for adaptive use involving significant floor plan changes. A minimum of 1,500 square feet of exhibit space in the distillery would be required for interpreting themes and specific interpretation of the village's agriculture-based industries. As the main visitor center, this building would contain an orientation area, book sales/gift shop, restrooms, a kitchen and multipurpose room/theater, two floors of exhibits, an office, a library/archives, and classrooms, all of which would require extensive interior changes. Visitors expecting to see an operating distillery would be disappointed. Interactive exhibits and audiovisuals would help enhance visitors' understanding and enliven their experiences (see Distillery Exhibits inset).

The proposed changes are as follows.

*Ground Level* — The large theater/multipurpose room at the south side of the building would continue that use, with the stage reconfigured to be at the west end of the room. A larger kitchen and coat room would be installed just north of this room, with stairs and an accessible ramp connecting the two levels of the basement. The balance of the space to the north would be used for restrooms, mechanical equipment, and maintenance shop. At the north-east corner of the building, the lower level of the original grain storage bins would be retained as exhibits. An entrance/exit to the facility would be provided on the east side of this floor.

#### *Distillery Exhibits*

*Various media would be needed for effective interpretation of missing historic elements at the distillery. For example, low-volume sounds interpreting milling and distilling should surround visitors as they enter the exhibits on this floor. An audio component, such as voices of millers and distillers and sounds of grain being milled or of whiskey barrels being taken to storage would help visitors appreciate the extensive process of rye whiskey production. Audiovisual media are well suited to presenting chronological material and overviews of broad topics like the history and significance of a site or representing missing or inaccessible elements of historic structures. Music, sounds of nature, manufacturing noise, and personal narratives can add authenticity and personal interest to presentations. Sound and visuals improve access to information for visitors with sight or hearing disabilities.*

*Small alcoves with movie screens would help illustrate operating mill and distillery equipment, possibly with wall murals to help visitor visualize the distillery's historic environment.*

*Interactive exhibits, which would appeal to a wide range of visitors' interests, knowledge levels, and ages, might involve visitors in hands-on experiences such as grinding grain or assembling a barrel or a walking through a full-scale diorama.*

*Historic photographs, painting, dioramas, models, large diagrams of the distilling process, or a cross section model of the building would help give perspective to the complex activities that took place in this building. Artifacts, as stand-alone exhibits or in video alcoves, would help tell the story but not be the story.*

*The security of interactive exhibits is of special concern. Durable, easily maintained exhibits must be designed. These details, along with number, content, and location of exhibits, would be resolved during preparation of an exhibit plan for the distillery.*

The theater/multipurpose room (about 2,000 square feet) would have about 140 movable, interlocking seats (and some wheelchair accessible spaces in the front and rear) and serve several functions — presenting the site's primary, regularly scheduled movie, and between those showings, accommodating storytellers, musicians, dramatic presentations, and skills demonstrations. Also, after hours it could be used for community meetings, seminars, and lectures.

The 12- to 15-minute video program would provide an overview of West Overton's interpretive themes and a context for the various village resources and place the village in context with the greater world of 19th century Pennsylvania. It should build the image of a vibrant, action-filled community and should inspire visitors to learn more about West Overton village and visit sites throughout the village for more first-hand experiences. Accessibility would be enhanced by audio amplification and captions. A description of visuals might be provided for visually impaired visitors.

The theater and its projection room would be equipped with (1) a video program with continuous loop or automatic rewind capability and remote start from three locations — the projection room, the front of the theater, and the information desk, (2) a 35-mm slide projection system with dual projectors and lapse dissolve unit, (3) an audio system with remote speaker at information desk for program monitoring, and (4) ample storage for audiovisual equipment and supplies.

*First Floor* — This floor would be used mainly for visitor orientation (see Distillery floor plan drawings at the end of this discussion). A step and

ramps would lead to a main entry near the center of the west wall at one of the original entrances. The visitor's first view upon entering the waiting area should be a large open space and rustic architectural features that create images of historic commerce and industry. A bulletin board would advertise hours of operation, interpretive programs, and other visitor information.

The waiting area, which could also function as a waiting area for tours of the Abraham Overholt house, would lead to an introductory exhibit area with exhibit panels that identify village areas and visitor facilities and invite visitors to participate in the wide range of activities available. Other interpretive panels might locate AIHP sites and identify West Overton's association with southwestern Pennsylvania's industrial heritage. One of the dominant exhibits in the exhibit area might portray historic West Overton. A full-color painting or historic illustration of the village at its most active stage would be appropriate for use in this exhibit.

Other exhibits in this introductory area could interpret West Overton as an important village in southwestern Pennsylvania's past, present, and future and include how geographic location played an important role in the village's success; the relationship among natural resources, village industries, and human history; the commercial and industrial aspects of village activities, including the impact of vertical integration; and West Overton's contributions to AIHP and regional themes. The waiting area and introductory exhibit area would accommodate 60–80 people.

A staffed information desk adjacent to the waiting area would provide orientation to village resources and services,

information about nearby facilities, entrance fee collection, and Abraham Overholt house tour reservations.

A book/gift/craft sales area (about 700 square feet), providing in-depth information for visitors and revenue to support other interpretive activities, would be in the southwest part of the building. A broad selection of publications on West Overton and southwestern Pennsylvania's cultural and natural resources and tourism opportunities should be offered. Security for displayed inventory would be enhanced by the proximity of the information desk. Adequate inventory storage space near the sales area would be required.

The northwest part of this floor (about 1,080 square feet) would be used for changing exhibits. The northeast corner of the first floor would be an exhibit centering around the grain storage bins, and the southeast corner would contain an archives, library, and an interpretive supervisor's office and work space for staff.

*Second Floor* — The second floor would be left open, much as it is, with the only changes being the stair and elevator in the northwest corner and the addition of two classrooms in the southeast corner. Exhibits on this floor should be exciting, dynamic and complement other activities throughout the village. Exhibits would interpret milling, distilling, and related industries, such as coopering, hog raising, and transportation. The design of the classroom would be flexible enough to allow for temporary exhibit space.

*Third Floor Plan* — This floor, about 4,000 square feet, would be a special events gallery. It would be large enough to accommodate quilt shows,

craft festivals, traveling exhibits, and other special events that may attract 150–200 people at one time. It would remain as open space, with movable seating, tables, and temporary exhibit panels.

*Fourth Floor and Attic* — These floors would remain open for storage.

*Stairs/Elevators/Access* — Two new fire stairs would be installed in the building to meet the required life safety codes and make all floors usable. Also, an elevator would be added to provide an accessible route to all levels except the fifth-level attic. One new stair and the elevator would be inserted in the northwest corner of the building (where the exterior window openings have been previously sealed with brick) on all floors. The second stair would be added inside the grain storage bins except on the fifth floor. This stair would function as a fire route and also allow people to see both the inside and the outside of this frame structure.

Another option that might be considered for the adaptation of the distillery is to retain the existing multipurpose theater-in-the-round format in the basement without projection facilities. The changing exhibit area on the first floor could then be adapted as the visitor orientation theater and include projection facilities.

Future increases in visitation and staff increases might warrant relocation of sales activities, possibly to the Overholt store.

### **Overholt Stock Farm**

Interpretation at the stock farm would be the story of West Overton's agricultural

beginnings and the part that natural resources played in the village's growth. Furnishings would portray an efficient, innovative, agricultural operation in a successful farming community. Opportunities for hands-on and sensory experiences should be plentiful.

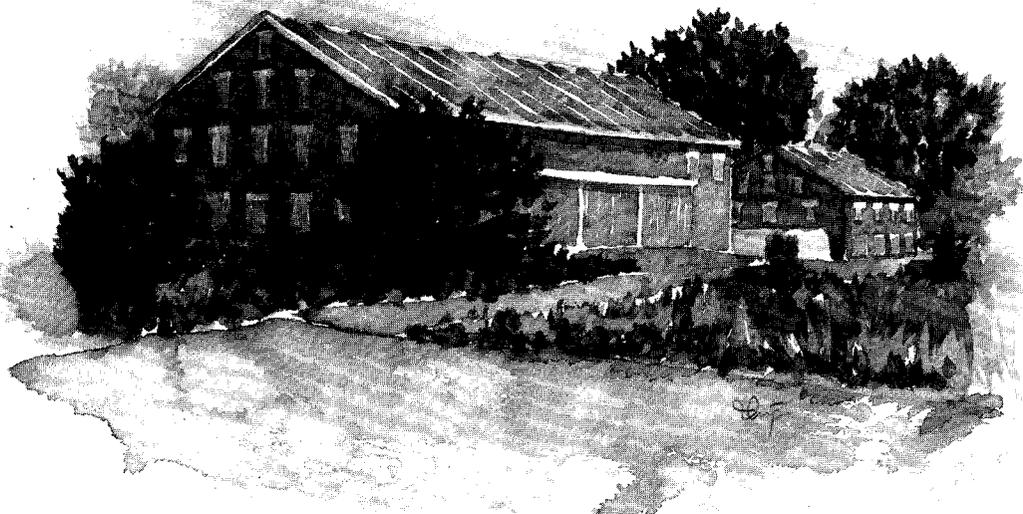
Demonstration crops nearby, especially rye and wheat, would portray a working farm that supplied the distilling operation. An unobtrusive wayside exhibit on the edge of the farm as approached from the distillery would interpret the origins of the village economy.

**Farmhouse.** This later, frame farmhouse would most likely be used to house maintenance personnel for the property. Although this farmhouse was built after the period of significance (1880), restoration to its original appearance would not detract from the

historic district. It is a convenient site to adapt for living quarters.

Interior rooms would be used much as they were originally, with the principal living room, den, and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms above (see Farmhouse floor plan drawing at the end of this discussion). A small two-story section that was added in the rear ell area would be retained because it is a convenient location for a bathroom and it does not detract from the character of the building. The basement would be used for storage and maintenance activities.

**Large Barn.** The large barn structure would be restored. The lower area would be used for exhibits and to store and display equipment, hand tools, and objects that illustrate the farm's principal crops and work activities. The upper



Large and small barns

main floor would be used for special events, festivals, and demonstrations and to display farm equipment such as hay wagons, grain wagons, and reapers (see Large Barn floor plan drawing at the end of this discussion). Equipment must be movable to accommodate special events related to the site's agricultural themes such as living history presentations or outdoor festivals. Straw, bales of rye, or bags of grain stored in one section would link the farm operation to the distillery.

No floor plan changes are proposed on either floor, although further research is necessary to understand the original configuration of the lower level column system. If the upper level begins to get heavy use, restrooms might be added in one corner. The large, metal, one-story shed that has been added to the downhill side of this barn would be removed.

**Small Barn.** The small barn would be used as a working farm building, probably to house farm animals that would add to the sights, sounds, and smells of a 19th century farm. The exterior would be restored, including the original window, ventilator, and door openings, and both interior levels would be rehabilitated (see Farm Structures floor plan drawings at the end of this discussion).

**Warehouse.** This simple one-room building, which has functioned as a warehouse, general store, and post office, could be rehabilitated for a maintenance shop. No floor plan changes are contemplated for this building.

**Small Stables.** This one-room building would be rehabilitated and used for equipment storage for maintenance activities. No floor plan changes are contemplated for this building. The exterior would be restored.

## Residential Area

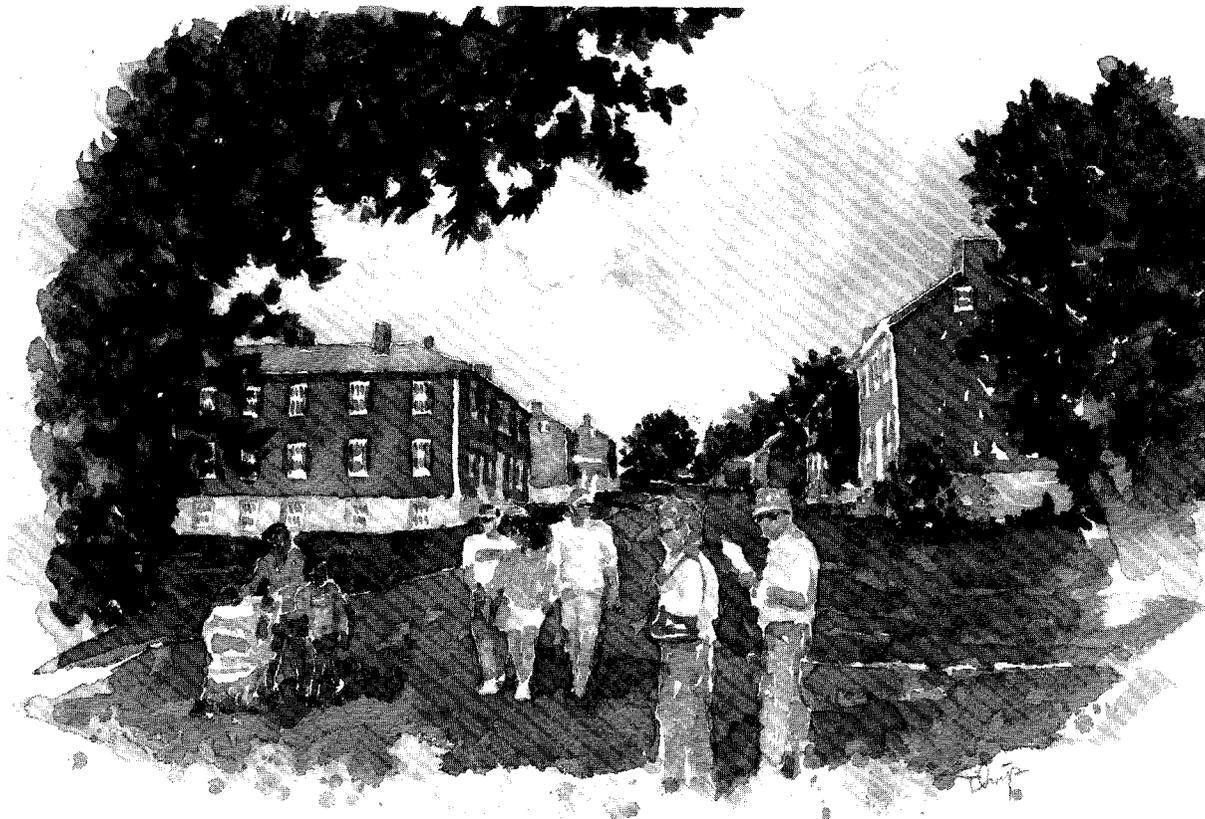
This area of the village would be an interesting mix of historic restoration and adaptive use. The village street, building facades, and selected interiors would be restored to portray a culturally homogenous social structure and a stratified economic structure.

Along the residential street between the creek and the H.S. Overholt house, a wayside exhibit would interpret the residential community that supported the village's industrial activities.

**H.S. Overholt House.** This house was built as part of the expanding Overholt family and is a key building on Frick Avenue. It has a variety of spaces and is a good candidate for adaptive use.

*Basement* — Because it is easily accessible and does not have remaining historic features inside that would be harmed, the basement is a good place for adaptive uses, such as a restaurant, that could not be implemented where historic features still remain. The original rooms on the west side of this floor are above grade, have full light coming from the west, and are close to at-grade access. Small ramps could be added to provide full accessibility on this side. (See H.S. Overholt House floor plan at the end of this discussion.)

*First Floor* — The main entrance would be retained at the existing original front porch. An accessible entrance could be provided by a ramp leading up to the inset east-side rear porch. The original rooms and staircases on this floor would probably be used for office space or small shops, using the existing original spaces. Restrooms could be provided in the rear northeast room.



Frick Avenue street scene

*Second Floor* — The original rooms could be reused either for retail shops or office space. Restrooms are proposed for the rear northeast room. Emergency egress could be provided on the east side.

A single wayside exhibit between the H.S. and C.S. Overholt houses would interpret the expanding Overholt family retaining control of village enterprises and the role of the village store in community life.

**C.S. Overholt House/Store.** The story of the C. S. Overholt house and store illustrates the village's self-sufficiency, family control of the community's economic evolution, and the Overholt's maintenance of a self-contained community through response to local needs. Although the Overholts intended the

store as a profitable venture, architectural evidence clearly indicates that they intended it to be a large social space as well. The wide steps serve as the major gathering, viewing, and otherwise traditionally convivial space of the village.

*Basement* — The basement level is accessible at grade from the southwest and has full windows in this wall. An accessible main entrance would be provided in the existing door to this level. The six existing original spaces on this level divided by masonry walls would be reused, most likely for retail sales, light food service (such as a sandwich shop), or offices. The basement would also be a possible location for a restaurant because it lacks architectural detail and this use would not impact the historic character of the



C.S. Overholt house

building (see C.S. Overholt House floor plan drawing at the end of this discussion).

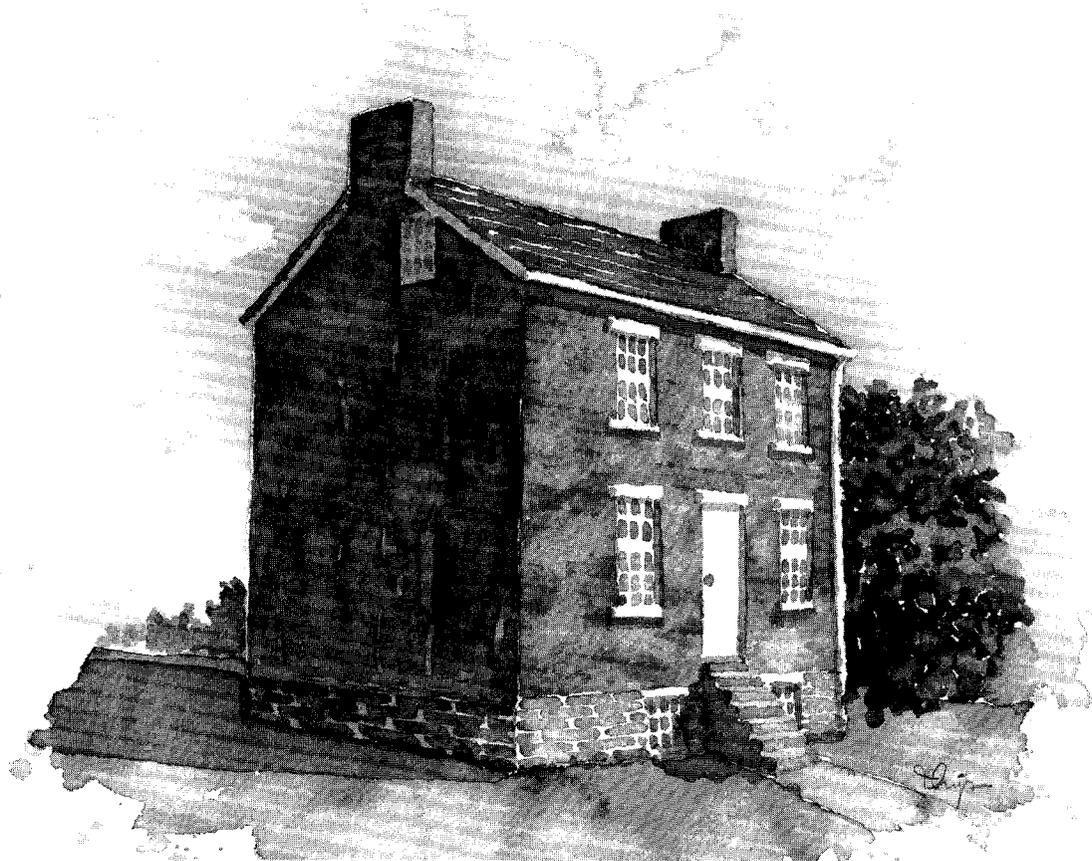
*First Floor* — The entrance to the retail portion of the C. S. Overholt house (west side) would be furnished to look like a historic store. Sales items, which would provide income, might include stone-ground cornmeal, molasses, and other traditional foods. Rear portions of the area might be adapted for modern retail use such as a craft shop or book sales. Restrooms would be in the rear northeast room where there would be the least damage to the historic character of the building. The east half of the first floor would be reused as office or retail space. The north wall would have an accessible entrance.

*Second Floor* — The upper section of the stair hall and the six original rooms (with interconnecting rooms and circulation) would likely be used for offices or retail sales. Restrooms are proposed for the northeast rear room, again because this area has the least amount of architectural detailing and there would be minimal effects on historic character.

Future increases in visitation might warrant relocation of sales activities proposed for the distillery to the Overholt store.

**Worker House A.** This building is to be adaptively used. The work would include restoring the front porch and the rear entry. The building has been altered on the interior, including moving the stair and partitions. Possible uses include offices (restrooms would be in the basement) or a guest suite associated with a bed-and-breakfast inn (restrooms would be on the first floor). The second

**Worker House B.** This house is believed to retain its original configuration on the interior and is proposed to be restored, including the front porch and rear entry, to show how the workers lived. A unique building type in the area, it is important to have as much as possible open for visitors to see. The interior plan would require few changes because the partitions and stairs appear to be



Typical worker house

floor would also be adapted for a new use. The attic would remain vacant (see Worker Houses A, B, and C floor plan drawings at the end of this discussion).

A wayside exhibit along the east side of the street near worker house A would interpret the economic and social lifestyles of the workers and craftspeople.

close to their original configuration. The cellar and first floor parlor and kitchen would be furnished to portray the social and economic lifestyle of village residents. The role of women, their families, and how their lives were shaped by living in a company town would be interpreted. The social relationships among renters, boarders, and owners are important parts

of the story. Visitors would be able to compare this structure and furnishings with the Abraham Overholt house to understand the village's economic diversity. (A furnishings plan will be developed to identify appropriate furnishings.) Visitors would enter the parlor through the front (northwest) door, pass through the kitchen, and exit through the rear door to a restored garden landscape and access to the cellar, which would also be restored.

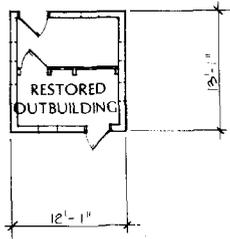
An accessible entry could be provided to the cellar by a slight ramp down to the existing door on the rear of the building, and access could be provided to the main floor by a ramp up the west side of the house and around on the north side to join with the front porch. The second floor and attic would not be accessible and would remain vacant.

**Worker House C.** This building is privately owned and was not accessible

during this study. Possible adaptive uses include a rental residence, small offices, or a guest suite associated with a bed-and-breakfast facility in another building.

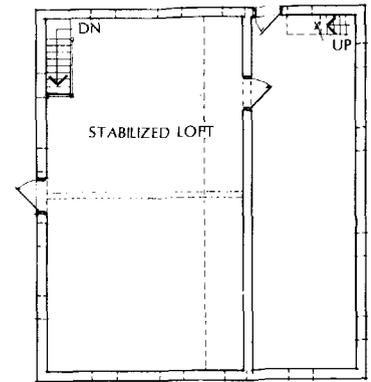
**Worker House D.** This building is privately owned and was not accessible during this study. If greatly altered on the interior, which is the assumption, it could be adaptively reused for a bed-and-breakfast inn, offices, or a rental residence. Changes would have minimal adverse effects. The house appears to be in a greatly deteriorated condition (see Worker Houses D and F floor plan drawings at the end of this discussion).

**Worker House F.** Like worker house D, this building is privately owned and was not accessible during this study. Probably greatly altered on the interior, it could be used for a bed-and-breakfast, offices, or rental residence.

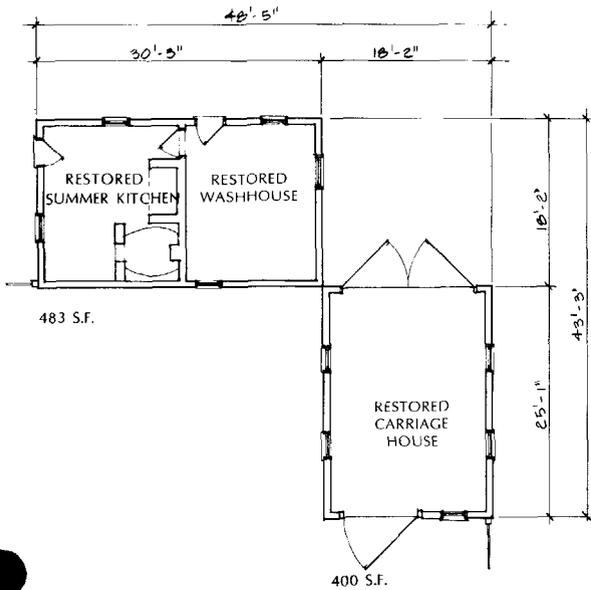


OUTBUILDING PLAN

142 S.F.

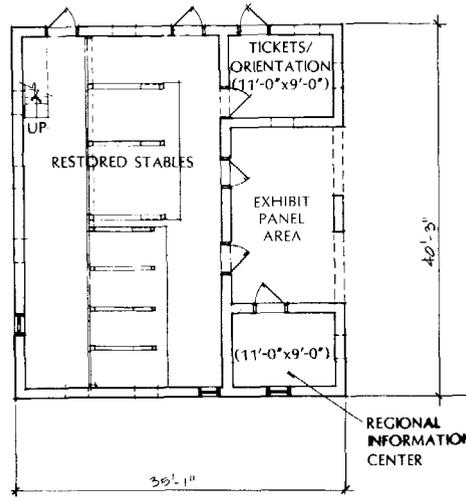


FIRST LEVEL  
1340 S.F.



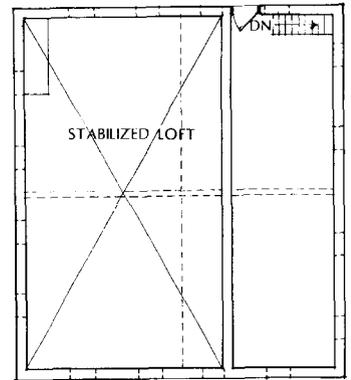
483 S.F.

400 S.F.



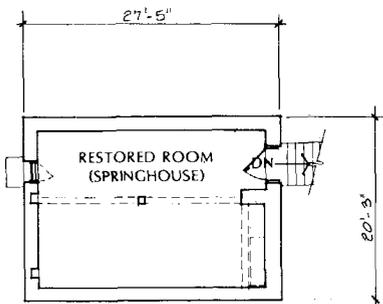
GROUND LEVEL  
1088 S.F.

STABLES PLANS

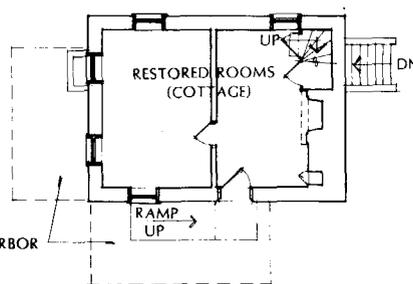


SECOND LEVEL  
425 S.F.

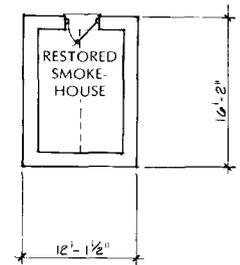
SUMMER KITCHEN / WASHHOUSE / CARRIAGE HOUSE PLANS



BASEMENT  
398 S.F.

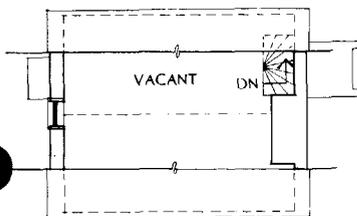


FIRST FLOOR  
413 S.F.



SMOKEHOUSE PLAN  
121 S.F.

SPRINGHOUSE / COTTAGE PLANS



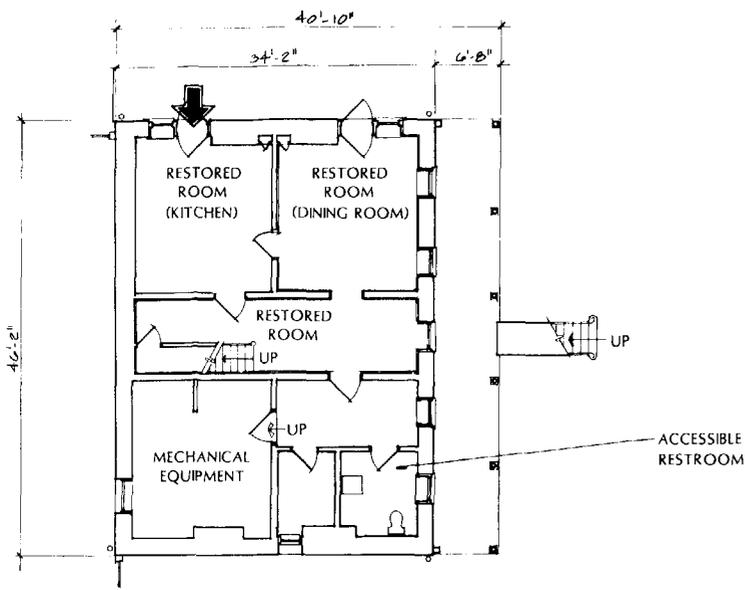
ATTIC  
370 S.F. (2'-0" CLEARANCE OR GREATER)



**A. OVERHOLT  
STRUCTURES**  
WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

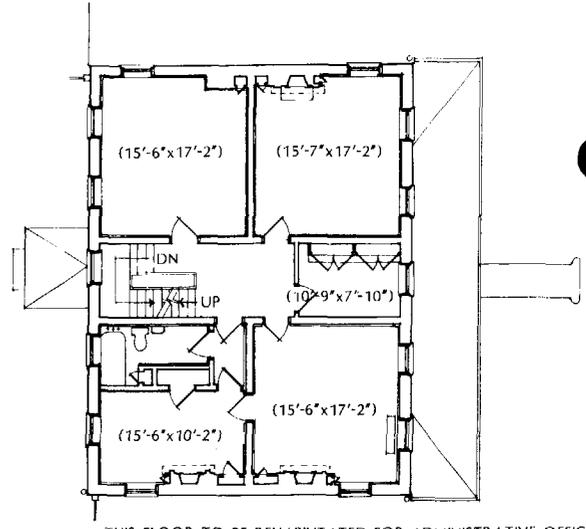
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
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ON MICROFILM



**GROUND FLOOR PLAN**

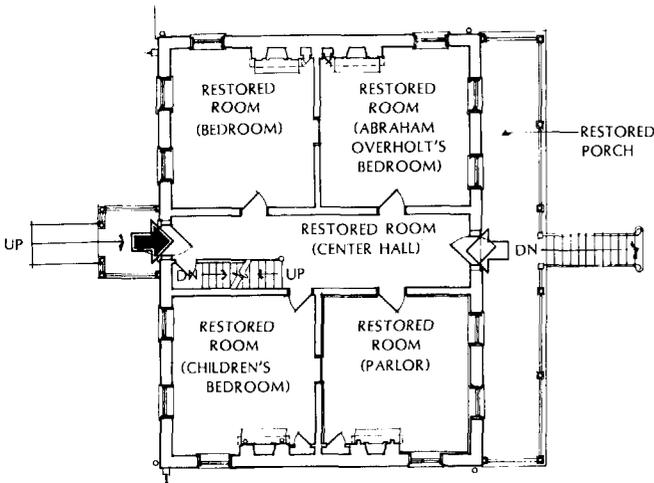
1304 S.F.



THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

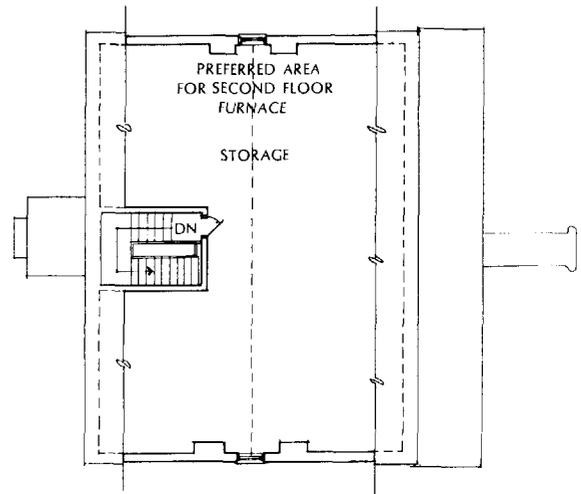
**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

1304 S.F.



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

1304 S.F.



**ATTIC PLAN**

1188 S.F. (2'-0" CLEARANCE OR GREATER)



# A. OVERHOLT HOUSE

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

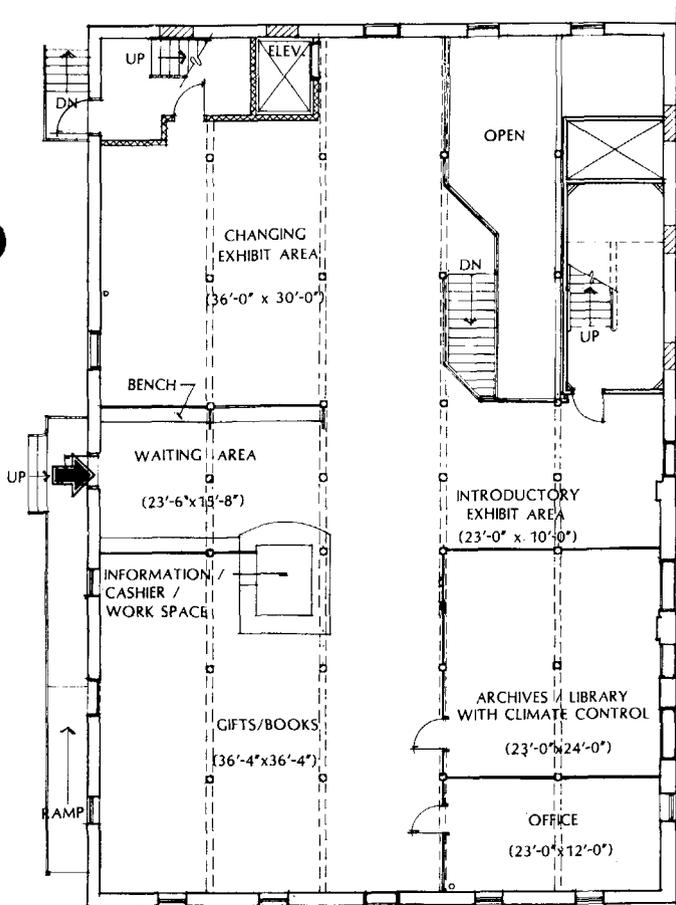
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service

Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

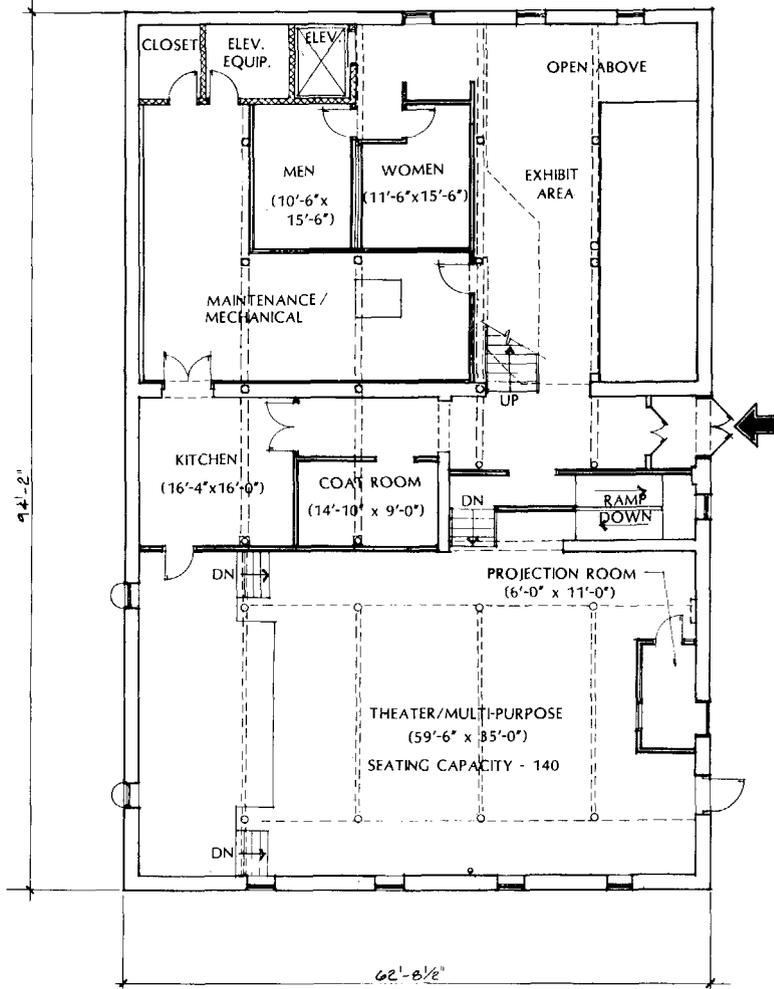
DSC • 957 • 20079 • JUL 93

ON MICROFILM



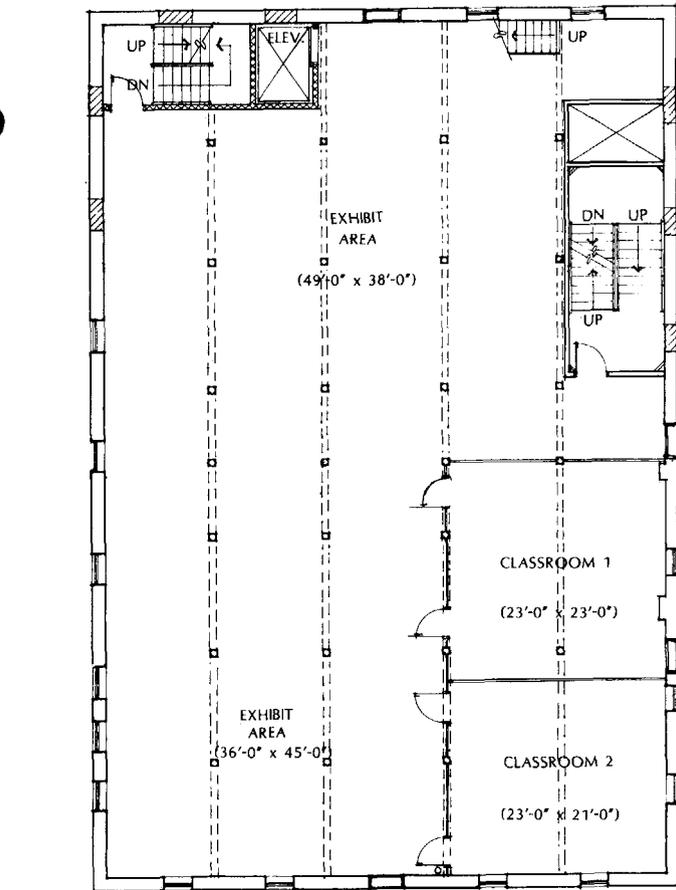
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

5480 S.F.



BASEMENT PLAN

5480 S.F.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

5480 S.F.



**DISTILLERY**

**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

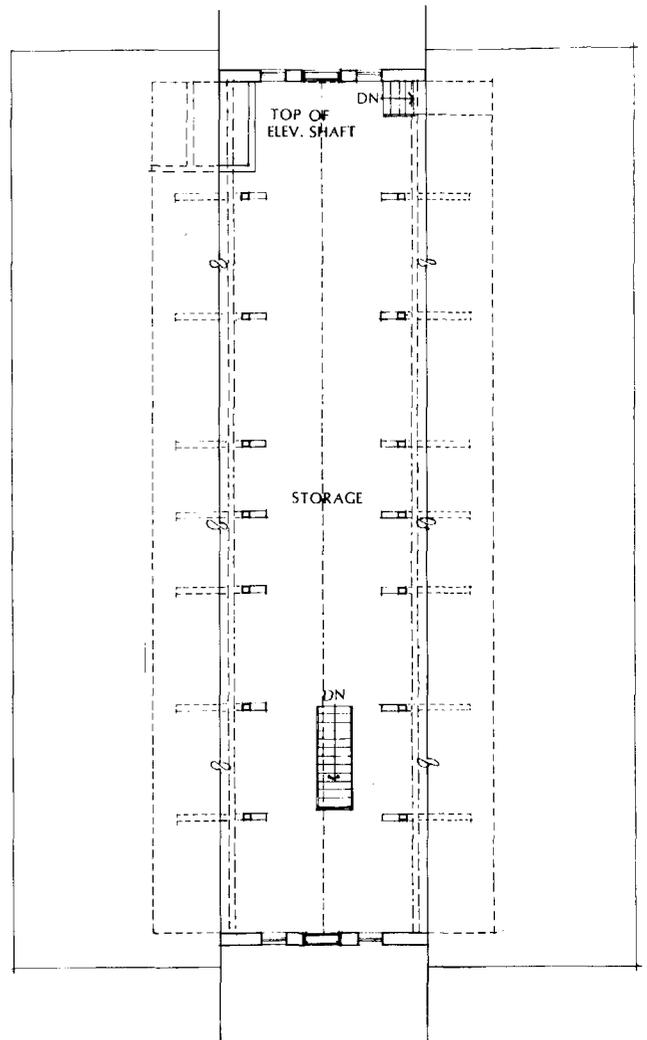
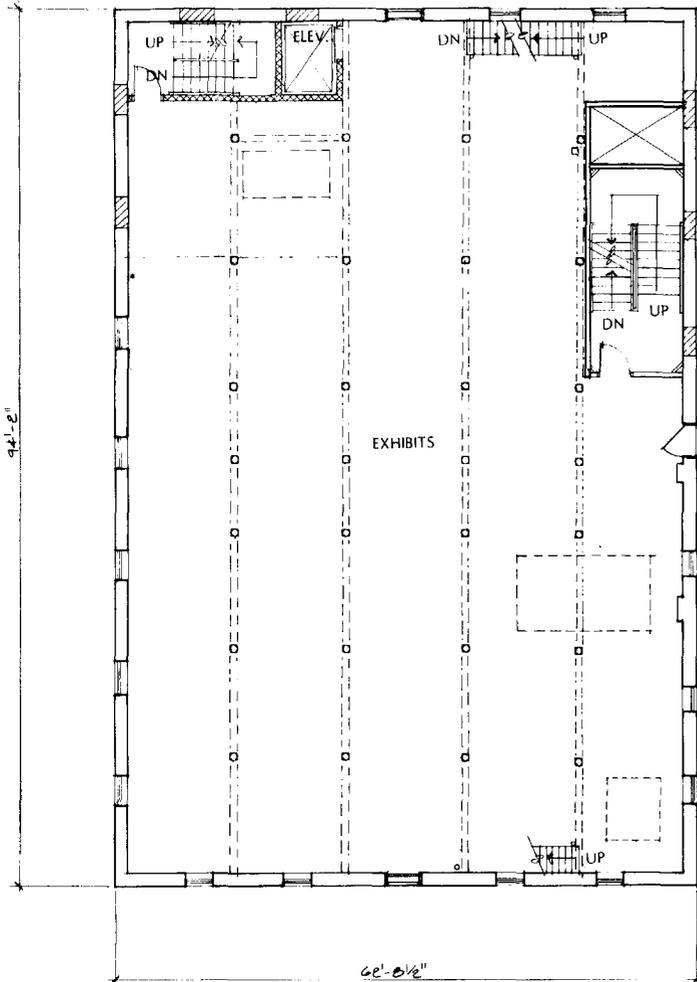
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

DSC • 957 • 20073 • JUL 93

ON MICROFILM

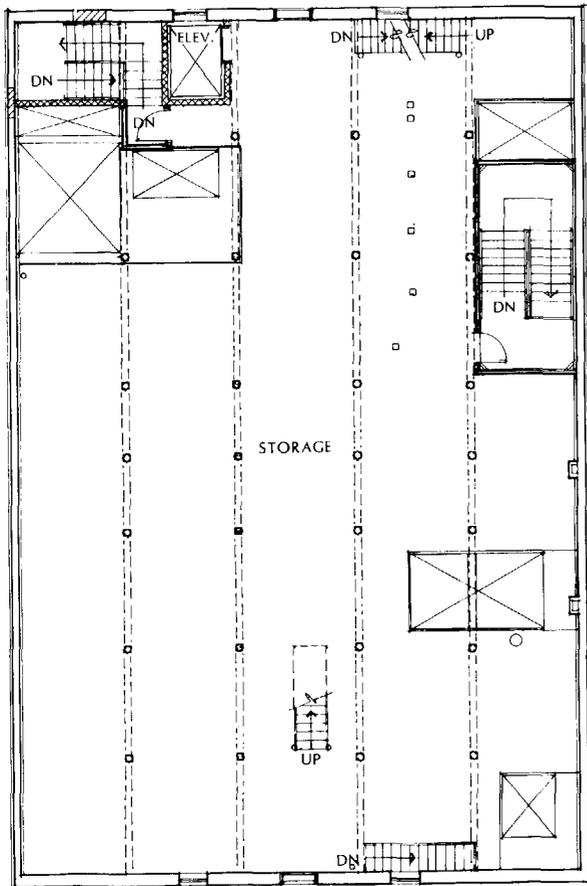
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

5480 S.F.



ATTIC PLAN

2580 S.F. (2'-0" CLEARANCE OR GREATER)



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

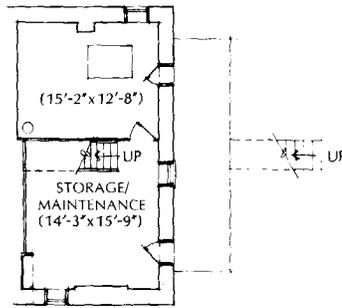
5480 S.F.



**DISTILLERY**  
WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 957 • 20074 • JUL 93

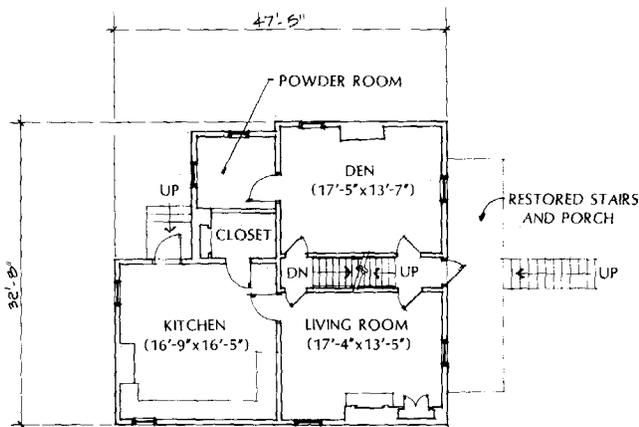
ON MICROFILM



**BASEMENT PLAN**

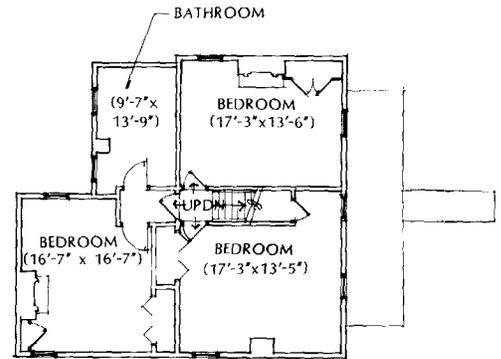
406 S.F.

THIS HOUSE TO BE REHABILITATED FOR STAFF RESIDENTIAL USE



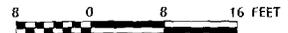
**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

926 S.F.



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

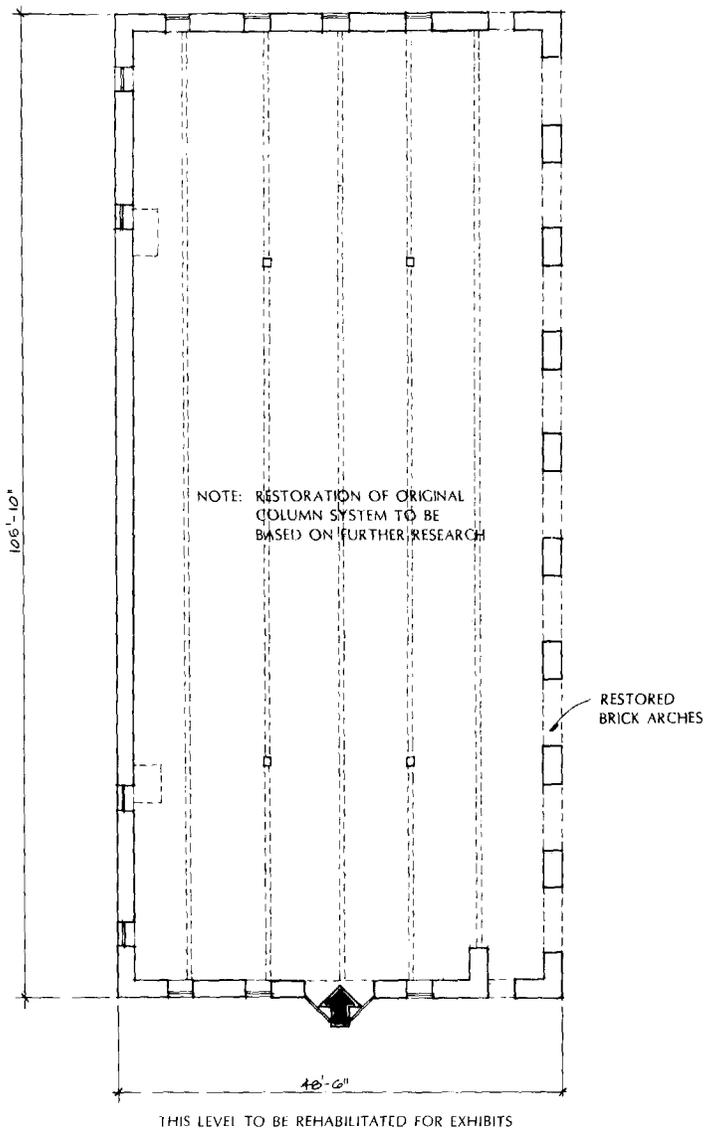
926 S.F.



**FARM HOUSE**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

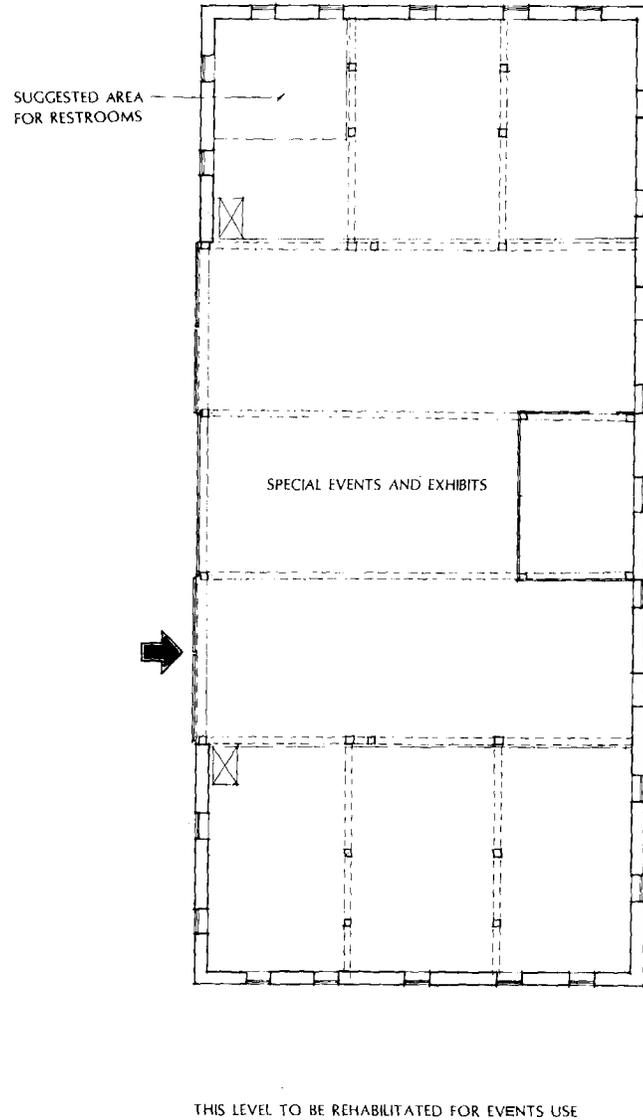
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
 United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 DSC • 957 • 20077 • JUL 93

**ON MICROFILM**



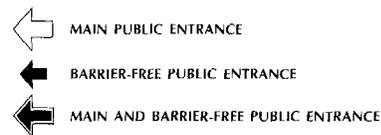
**LOWER LEVEL PLAN**

4665 S.F.



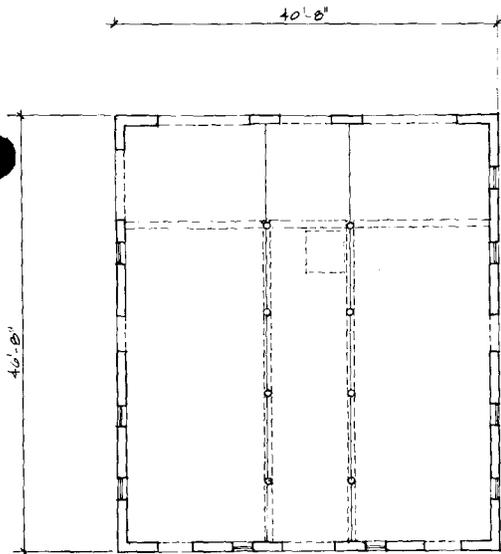
**UPPER LEVEL PLAN**

4815 S.F.



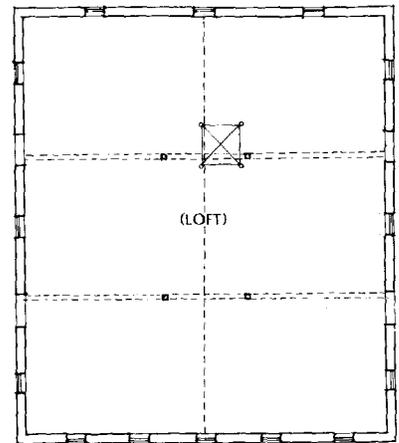
**LARGE BARN**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**  
**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
 United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 DSC • 957 • 20075 • JUL 93

ON MICROFILM



THIS LEVEL REHABILITATED FOR WORKING FARM USE.  
ILLUSTRATED RESTORATION OF BUILDING ENTRIES IS CONJECTURAL.

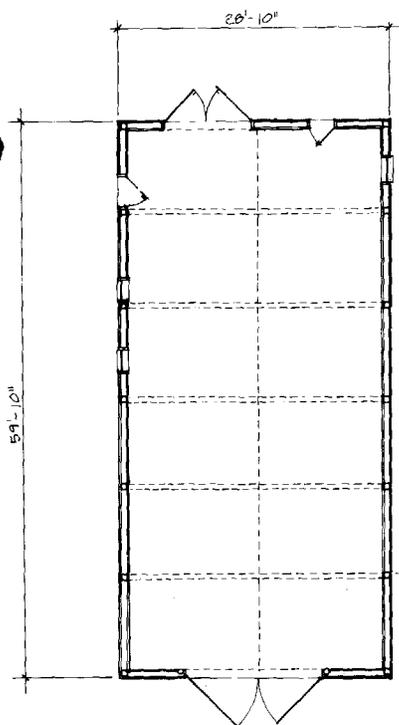
**LOWER LEVEL**  
1742 S.F.



THIS LEVEL REHABILITATED FOR WORKING FARM USE.

**UPPER LEVEL**  
1742 S.F.

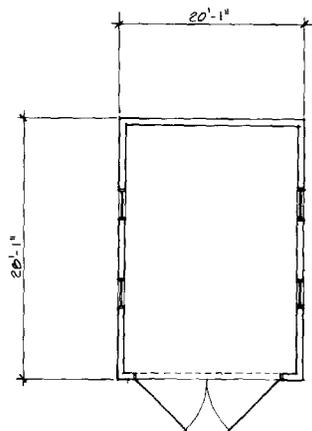
**SMALL BARN PLANS**



BUILDING TO BE REHABILITATED FOR USE BY  
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.  
EXTERIOR OF THIS BUILDING TO BE RESTORED.

**WAREHOUSE PLAN**

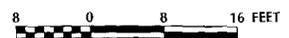
1623 S.F.



BUILDING TO BE REHABILITATED AS STORAGE FOR  
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.  
EXTERIOR OF THIS BUILDING TO BE RESTORED.

**SMALL STABLES PLAN**

536 S.F.



**FARM STRUCTURES**

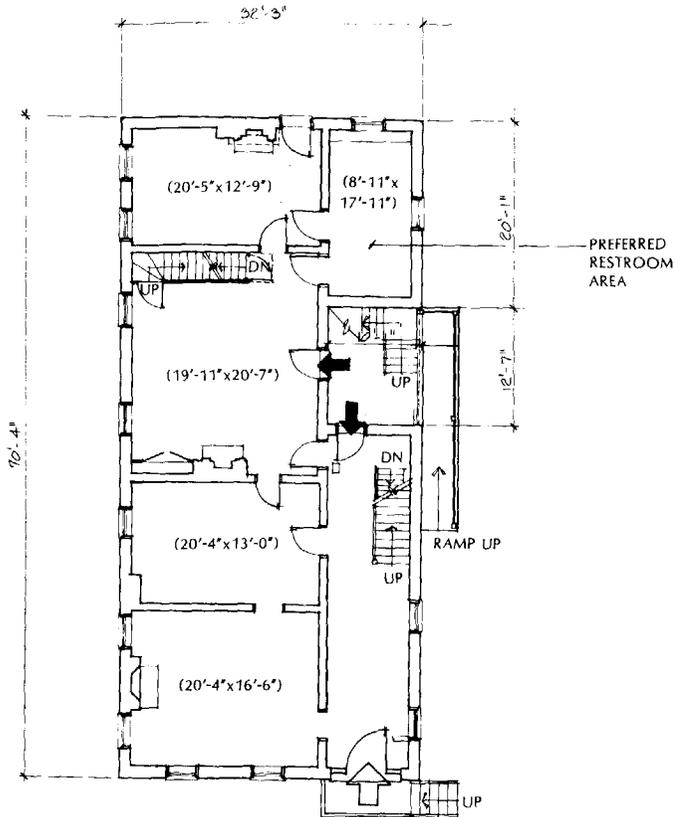
WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 957 • 20076 • JUL 93

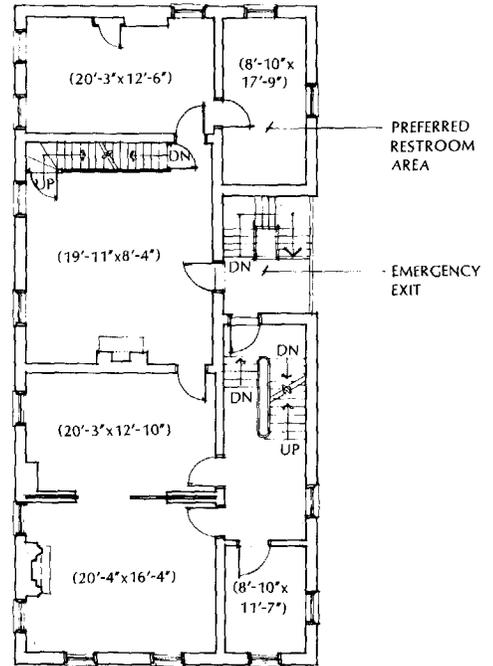
ON MICROFILM

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

1925 S.F.



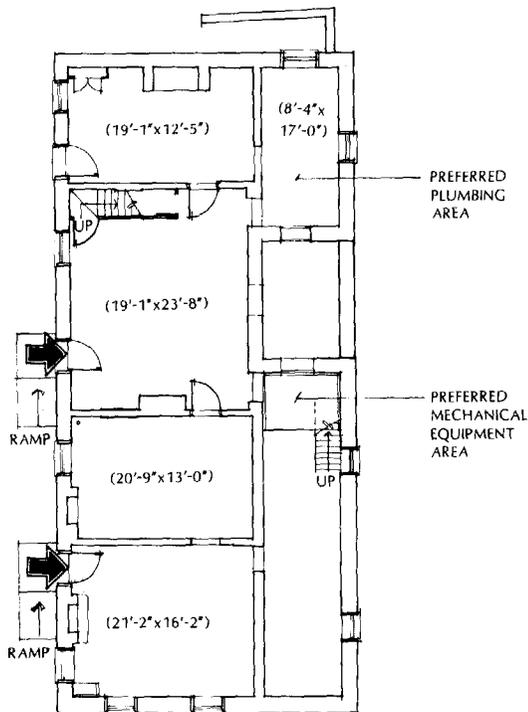
THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADAPIVE USE



THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADAPIVE USE

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

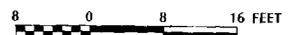
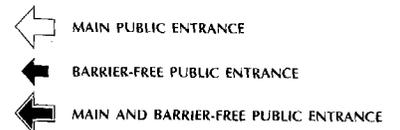
1925 S.F.  
LOCATE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THIS FLOOR IN ATTIC



THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADAPIVE USE

**BASEMENT PLAN**

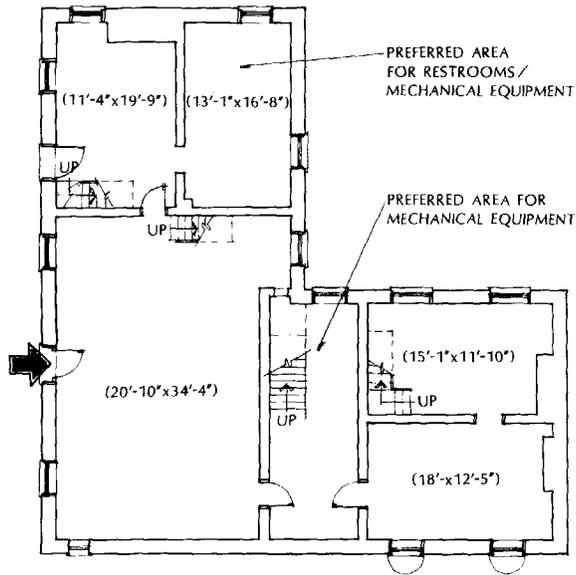
1828 S.F.



**H.S. OVERHOLT HOUSE**  
WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 957 • 20071 • JUL 93

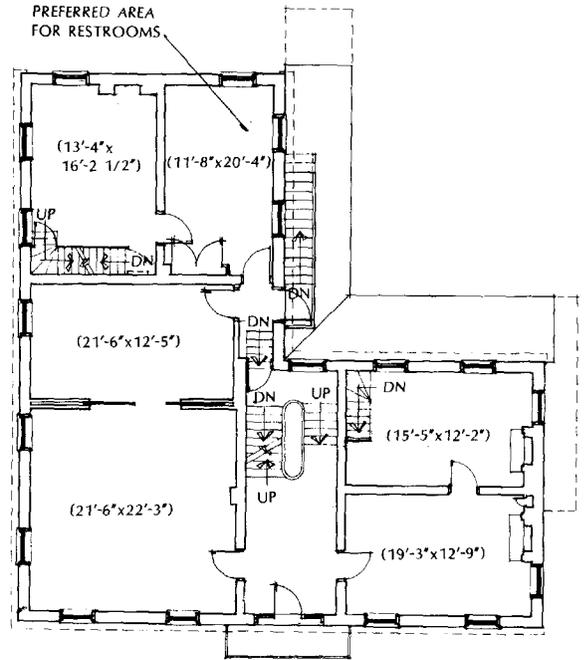
ON MICROFILM



THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADAPTIVE USE

**BASEMENT PLAN**

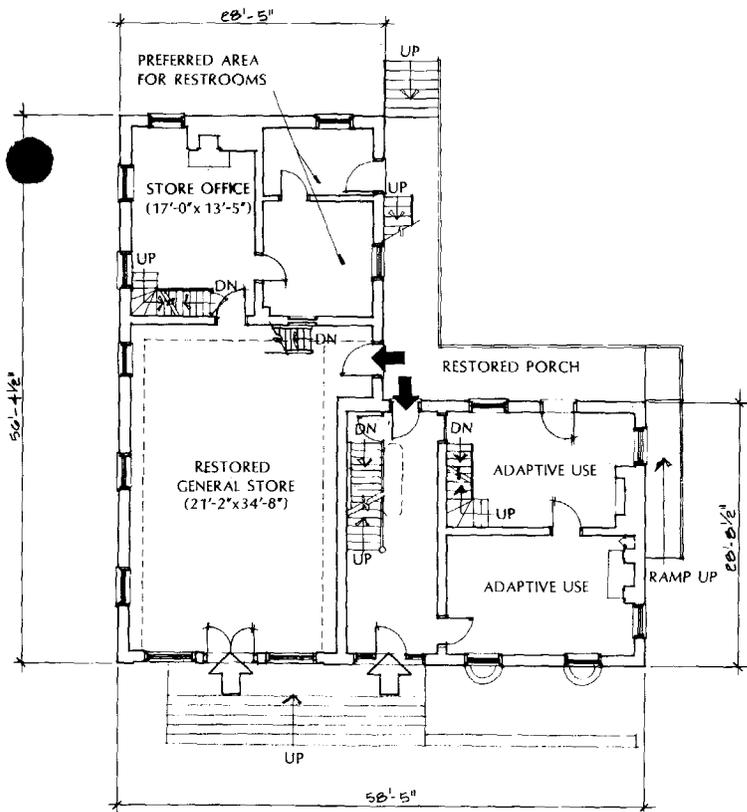
2056 S.F.



THIS FLOOR TO BE REHABILITATED FOR ADAPTIVE USE

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

2150 S.F.



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

2150 S.F.

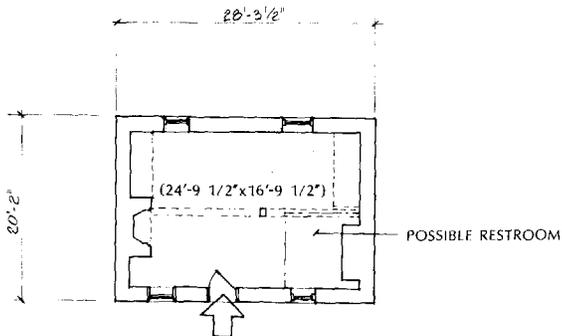


**C.S. OVERHOLT  
 HOUSE/STORE  
 WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
 United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 DSC • 957 • 20072 • JUL 93

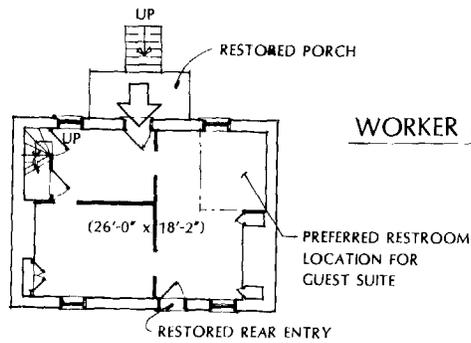
ON MICROFILM

**WORKER HOUSE A PLANS**



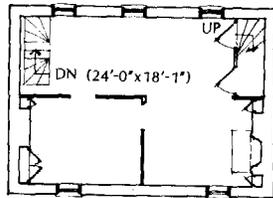
THIS FLOOR TO BE ADAPTIVELY REUSED

CELLAR  
393 S.F.



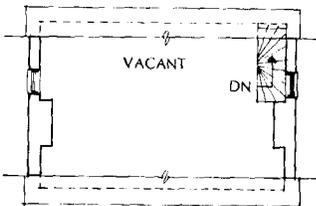
THIS FLOOR TO BE ADAPTIVELY REUSED

FIRST FLOOR  
471 S.F.



THIS FLOOR TO BE RETROFITTED FOR ADAPTIVE USE.

SECOND FLOOR  
471 S.F.

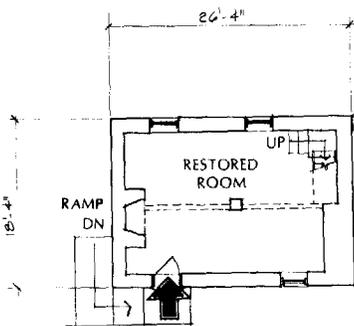


ATTIC  
312 S.F. \*

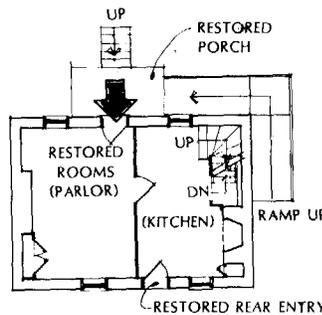
**WORKER HOUSE B PLANS**

WORKER HOUSE C IS BELIEVED TO BE SIMILAR AND IS TO BE ADAPTIVELY REUSED

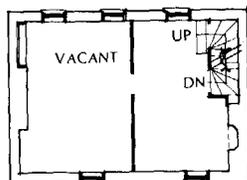
NOTE: \* -INDICATES APPROXIMATE AREA WHERE CEILING IS 2'-0" OR HIGHER.



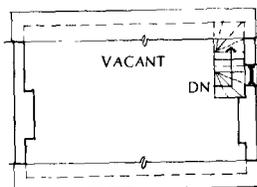
CELLAR  
335 S.F.



FIRST FLOOR  
368 S.F.



SECOND FLOOR  
368 S.F.



ATTIC  
240 S.F. \*

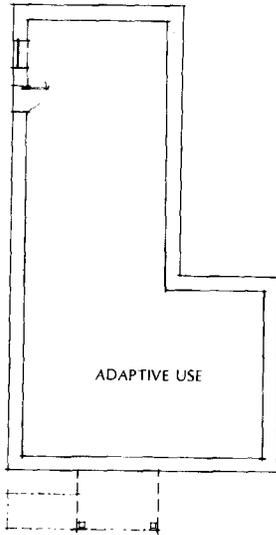
- MAIN PUBLIC ENTRANCE
- BARRIER-FREE PUBLIC ENTRANCE
- MAIN AND BARRIER-FREE PUBLIC ENTRANCE



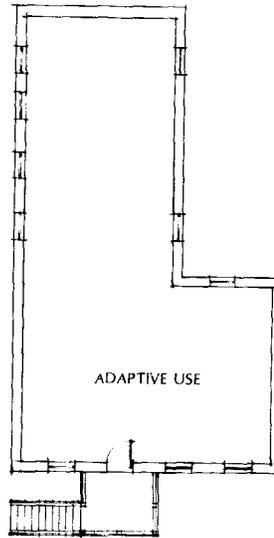
**WORKER HOUSES  
A, B, AND C**

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE  
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 957 • 20070 • JUL 93

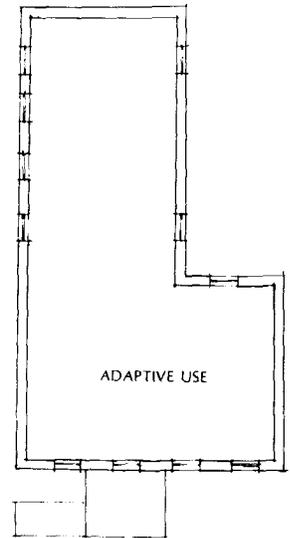
ON MICROFILM



**BASEMENT**  
900 S.F.



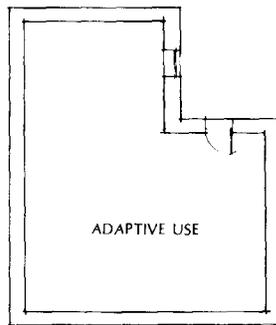
**FIRST FLOOR**  
989 S.F.



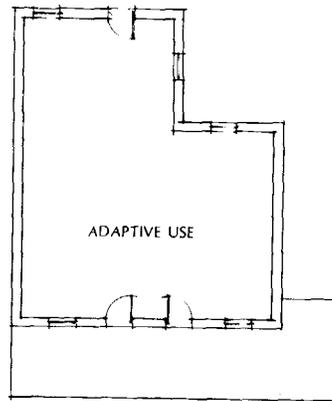
**SECOND FLOOR**  
989 S.F.

**WORKER HOUSE D PLANS**

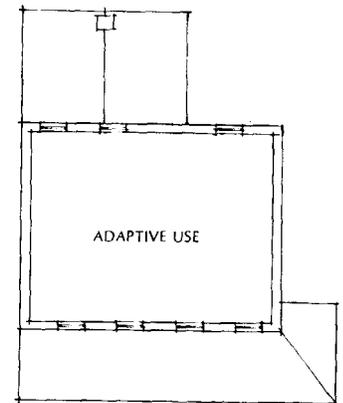
NOTE: THIS BUILDING IS PRIVATELY OWNED AND INACCESSIBLE. AREA FIGURES AND DOOR AND WINDOW LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



**BASEMENT**  
614 S.F.



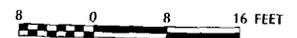
**FIRST FLOOR**  
666 S.F.



**SECOND FLOOR**  
666 S.F.

**WORKER HOUSE F PLANS**

NOTE: THIS BUILDING IS PRIVATELY OWNED AND INACCESSIBLE. AREA FIGURES AND DOOR AND WINDOW LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



**WORKER HOUSES  
D AND F**

**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

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**ON MICROFILM**

### **Re-creating the Historic Setting**

To re-create the historic village setting, the bituminous surface of the existing roads through the village would be removed and replaced with a stabilized gravel surface. The culvert at the Felgars Run crossing would be removed and replaced with a bridge similar to what historically existed. As much as possible, the historic grid pattern of roads within the village would also be reestablished. These roads would be used most by pedestrians but would also provide service access to all the buildings.

The Overholt family orchard, historically behind the Overholt house, would be re-created, as well as some of the kitchen and herb gardens that were by the Overholt summer kitchen and worker houses. The historic fence lines that surrounded the worker houses along Frick Avenue would be re-created.

### **Maximizing the Pastoral Setting and Minimizing Intrusive Elements**

To the greatest extent possible, the existing agricultural practices that create the pastoral farmland setting should be maintained. This area is within the village viewshed and provides a complementary background to the historic district. It would be a priority for West Overton Museums to acquire scenic easements for the adjacent property south and west of the village (actual property acquisition would not be necessary).

All the nonhistoric buildings that are categorized as intrusive visual elements and as noncontributing in the historic district would be removed. These include the replica coke oven adjacent to the distillery, the modern residence, garage, and old butcher house (also adjacent to

the distillery), and the nonhistoric additions and sheds to worker houses C and F.

The historic street scene along Frick Avenue would be re-created by locating all the existing overhead utilities in the village underground. The building facades would also be restored (see description under building uses).

### **Reducing Vehicular and Pedestrian Conflicts**

The construction of S.R. 819 (in the 1930s) created several dangerous intersections and conflict areas between pedestrians and vehicles (see previous "Vehicular Circulation Within the Village" section). To eliminate these hazardous areas, access to the village at the intersections of S. R. 819 and Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive would be closed. A new intersection would be created approximately 180 feet south of the existing intersection at Overholt Drive (see previous Site Plan map). West Overton Road would be realigned and tie into this intersection. Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive through the village would be closed to through traffic. All through traffic would be routed around the village on the new alignment of West Overton Road. The roads through the village would become predominately for pedestrians. Vehicular use in this core village area would be restricted to emergency, maintenance, and delivery vehicles. Vehicular access for visitors and employees with disabilities would also be permitted.

### **Felgars Run Greenway and Links to Other Cultural and Recreational Facilities**

A loop trail west of the stock farm would lead visitors to several industrial ruins sites, including a coal mine, coke oven, and railroad bed. A wayside exhibit interpreting the coal mine and the role of natural resources in the village economy should be on the west side of the trail leading from the farm to the coke oven site. Another wayside exhibit on the loop trail near the coke oven ruins would interpret coking at West Overton, the impacts of that industry on village economy and social life, and link West Overton to the AIHP coal, iron, and steel stories.

The coke oven and railroad sites have little physical integrity, but an 1876 illustration dramatically depicts historic features and activities. The coke oven and railroad site could play a tremendous role in communicating the hard labor and massive manpower needed to sustain the village's later industrial activities. Possibly first-person accounts can be found to provide insightful perspectives, especially stories from the workers who labored around the hot ovens. Such materials can elicit high reader interest and add a personal touch to visitor experiences.

Also on the loop trail, between the coke oven site and the bridge to village's residential area, a wayside exhibit would explain the coming of rail as an example of West Overton's expanding economic influence and link West Overton to the AIHP transportation theme.

The trail would continue south and link to Scottdale by creating a pedestrian/bicycle greenway along the Felgars Run right-of-way. Besides providing recreational and aesthetic uses, the Felgars

Run greenway (also referred to as an environmental corridor), would be rehabilitated as a zone that sustains the natural processes and fulfills specific ecological functions — a habitat for plant and animal communities; a conduit for plants, animals, and water; a filter of sediments and nutrients from surface and groundwater; a source or stockpile for various types of animals and seeds; and a sink for trapping sediment, toxins, and/or nutrients. To minimize the impacts such as erosion, soil compaction, and damage to vegetation, recreational use would be restricted to a stabilized permeable trail in nonsensitive areas along the corridor.

The trail would follow Felgars Run to Jacobs Creek and connect to Kendi park and soccer field in Scottdale. From here the trail would extend to the new Youghiogheny (Yough) River trail.

### **Additional Interpretive Program Proposals**

Some interpretive media and facilities have already been described. This section describes a more overall view of the interpretive plan and media proposals for West Overton and describes additional proposals, including a travelers information station, oral histories, three interpretive publications, personal services, special events, and educational/community programs space. Appendix M provides a summary of interpretive media proposals.

#### **Travelers Information Station.**

Designed primarily for contacting people through their automobile radios, travelers information stations are limited-range (3–5 miles), low-power radio broadcast systems. They broadcast from a narrated audiotape, with the messages automatically repeating. Some versions

can be operated from a telephone, allowing for frequent updating of information. These versatile systems are very useful tools for furnishing visitors with a variety of information.

It is recommended that a travelers information station be installed at West Overton. The message should describe 19th century Pennsylvania landscapes and lifestyles and introduce West Overton as a historic village in that rural landscape. The message should also orient visitors and enhance their anticipation and excitement for visiting West Overton. It may also be used to announce special events and activities at the site.

**Oral Histories.** People who know the traditions and lifeways of Westmoreland County are becoming few in number. A oral history program to record, preserve, and interpret local culture would involve the community in village programs and develop community appreciation of their own culture.

**Publications.** The following publication needs have been identified:

- pre-visit brochure — An attractive marketing brochure would be developed to respond to information requests and for distribution through state, local, and regional tourism promotion organizations. A map locating the village in relation to major roads along with graphics and text that create a rural village image and a description of available visitor experiences should encourage readers to visit West Overton.
- site interpretive brochure — A publication for onsite use would include an overview of the site's history and significance, a high quality village map that locates interpretive areas and

provides basic interpretive information on each area, and appropriate safety and visitor use information. The brochure and wayside exhibits should contain sufficient information to provide a minimum self-guiding interpretive experience for visitors who want that level of experience.

- handbook — A publication to provide detailed information about the site's history, significance, themes, resources, and visitor activities would be produced. As a synopsis of the site, this handbook would be an appropriate sales item to extend the interpretive program beyond onsite visitor experiences.

**Personal Services.** Personal services can be the most versatile, effective, and easy-to-implement form of interpretation; they can also be the most expensive. Person-to-person communications can be tailored to the needs of groups or individuals, may stimulate interest by adjusting to visitor reactions, can answer specific questions, and can take advantage of unexpected or unusual situations.

As a minimum, staff-provided personal services would be required at the distillery orientation area and at the Abraham Overholt house during tours. Staff are also appropriate at demonstration and temporary exhibit areas. Such services may be merged into full-scale or walk-through exhibits in the distillery exhibit area, living history demonstrations at the farm, social life and craft demonstrations in the furnished worker house, or cooking demonstrations in the Overholt homestead summer kitchen.

Personal services may also be provided by volunteers, commercial partners (lessees, retailers), and cooperating agencies. Contacts with commercial operators or with personnel presenting

community-sponsored programs would significantly influence visitors' impressions of West Overton.

Rigorous control and evaluation of personal services would be needed to ensure that quality and accuracy are maintained. Team building would be essential. West Overton Museums, with the assistance of the Park Service if necessary, would provide a comprehensive interpretive training program for its employees, volunteers, contractors, and community organizations. Such training would raise the quality and accuracy of all area visitor service activities and increase the visibility of West Overton in the surrounding area. Training and organization would require a full-time interpretive coordinator.

As with other interpretive media, personal service presentations must be directly related to the purpose, significance, themes, and resources of the site. Personal services should be responsive to changing visitation patterns, staff availability, seasonally prescribed activities, and opportunities for special events. Specific recommendations for personal services are usually made in an annual operations plan and individual activity plans produced by village interpreters and directors.

**Special Events.** Special events effectively involve the community in site programs, energize staff, market the site, give special emphasis to specific themes, and increase visitation. Facilities throughout the village should provide opportunities for such events. As described, one floor in the distillery and the large barn's main level would accommodate special events. Also, with pedestrian traffic only, Frick Avenue would be available for special events related to 19th century Pennsylvania culture, especially activities related to social and

residential activities — such as the Mennonite craft show, the coke and coal festival, and the quilt show.

### **Educational/Community Programs.**

Multipurpose areas in the distillery, including the theater (2,000 sq. ft.) and two classrooms (1,000 sq. ft.), would provide space for educational components of the village's interpretive themes. The multipurpose areas would allow the village to share Pennsylvania's heritage with the public and the community. Educational components would involve the community, regional school systems, other heritage and tourism organizations, and visitors in a variety of experiences that increase understanding of West Overton and southwestern Pennsylvania's cultural and natural heritage. Various special programs including films, conferences, training, skills workshops, class projects, musical and dramatic performances, and craft seminars would be accommodated throughout the year. The classrooms should be designed to accommodate several activities; stack seating, mobile video-film projection, and tables would add flexibility to the spaces.

### **Research and Archival Collection**

The village does not have an environmentally controlled space suitable for storing artifacts. It is recommended that such a space be developed in the distillery. Space should include storage and a separate workroom for treatment and study. Sufficient space must be available in the storage room to allow adequate distribution of weight to meet the stress tolerance of the floor structure. A scope of collection statement would be needed as a guideline for future acquisitions to the collection.

A research library, with easy access from the classrooms and interpretive coordinators office, should be in the distillery. Space should be provided for reading, research, and interpretive program preparation as well as for book, slide, and photograph collection storage.

### **Special Populations**

Provisions would be made to accommodate the needs of special populations who visit the site. Special populations include those with sight, hearing, mental, and mobility impairments, visitors who do not understand or speak English, and the elderly and young children.

Accommodations would be made for appropriate access to interpretive sites, facilities, and media. Guidelines are available to assist staff and facility/media planners and designers. Planning and design of interpretive media would conform to the National Park Service's *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media*, which comply with Public Law 90-480, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (Programmatic accessibility means providing full access to programs and interpretive media to people with physical and mental disabilities to ensure that they have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks.)

Historic structures require special treatment, and any modifications must be done with a qualified historic architect and appropriate clearances. Where there are alternative methods, the one that is most accessible would be given preference.

Some specific suggestions for accessibility are listed in the plan; others will be

developed during advanced planning and design and will reflect accessibility standards at the time of implementation.

### **Community Involvement**

An active and progressive cooperative program is essential to fully achieve the intent of West Overton's preservation, education, and economic objectives. Village managers and staff should spend a great deal of time and energy on cooperative community activities to create the least redundant, most effective and innovative programs possible. Given the current levels of funding and staffing, cooperation is not only desirable but essential.

West Overton should be as attractive to nearby communities as it is to visitors from other areas. Neighborhood participation in village programs could be ensured by implementing policies and developing activities that make residents feel welcome. Programs for local populations must involve the entire community. Opportunities should be available for village neighbors to participate in formal interpretive activities, educational experiences, or just a casual stroll through "their" special place. The site would be a source of pride for the community, a place where out-of-town guests are routinely taken.

Selecting staff from nearby communities would involve those communities in site operations and develop a sense of pride and ownership of village programs. Interpretive services should be provided by qualified local residents who can bring a personal flavor to contacts with visitors. Local farmers or farming groups might be solicited to manage the site's agricultural program, farm the site's croplands, and provide site security by occupying a house in the village.

Community experts might be invited to make special presentations about local history and culture or other areas of expertise. Qualified local entrepreneurs would be solicited for leasing and staffing the site's commercial properties.

Village staff should provide cultural tourism leadership in nearby communities by setting the example and providing assistance to others involved in the industry. Training could be provided to commercial tour operators, staff of other cultural facilities, and visitor service businesses. Nearby communities might be invited to attend training on area history and culture or interpretive and visitor service techniques. Offsite training sessions might be provided, or training packages and audiovisual aids might be developed for loan. The training program might provide "certification" to high achievers and an offer to become volunteers at the village.

Special events and seminars often attract local audiences that might never visit unless they first get a taste of what the site offers through special programs. Special events would be designed to involve everyone but would be planned and scheduled for local participation. Examples of appropriate events might include a Victorian Christmas, traditional Pennsylvania celebrations, or open houses (with free admission) to showcase site activities and thank local communities for their support.

A series of seminars would enhance the community's understanding of the unique and inherent values of their region's natural and cultural resources. Seminar topics should be relevant to local resources and exciting to people who do not know a lot about the village. Programs must attract a diverse audience to successfully increase visitation. Topics and speakers should present the site

from different perspectives and be interesting to people with different values. Presentations might include university-associated lectures, community experts sharing their expertise, or activities presented by local tourism organizations, chambers of commerce, and civic and historical organizations.

An active volunteer program would yield many benefits to the village and the community. Volunteers can help accomplish ideas that are bigger than the budget. Volunteering gives people the opportunity to educate and inform, impart skills they have learned, and share their community's history and culture with others. Because most volunteers come from nearby neighborhoods, a strong, innovative volunteer program could strengthen the bonds between West Overton and the community. A volunteer program should encourage young people, the advocates of the future, to visit repeatedly. Volunteer positions might include youth apprentices, high school mentors for elementary education program, or an adopt-a-site program.

A cooperative education program actively involves teachers and students in activities that bridge the gap between local cultural resources and the community's children. By sharing resources and facilities, village staff and local teachers could provide students experiential learning that is exciting, meaningful, and appropriate to both the school system and the village. Interpretive staff might assess the needs of the community, conduct teacher workshops, make library, archive, and curatorial resources available to local educators, and assist with writing appropriate curriculum for use in the classroom and in the village.

A strong outreach program establishes the identity and mission of the village in

the community, increases local visitation, and reaches a more diverse audience. The significance of village resources and availability of visitor activities can be communicated to individuals who might not otherwise visit and support programs. Newsletters, press releases, media alerts, and public service announcements could market site programs and activities. Program exchange and cooperative interpretive planning among area sites could enhance the quality of the visitors' experiences. Participating in offsite community meetings and hosting onsite meetings would involve the site staff in community affairs and increase community support for village programs.

### **Land Acquisitions**

The proposed plan described in this document describes the restoration of the entire village. At this writing there are several properties in the village that are not owned by West Overton Museums, some of which have been determined to be essential for the overall restoration of the village and have been included as part of the proposed plan. West Overton Museums is negotiating with each of the owners.

The top priority for acquisition is worker house C. This building is currently owner occupied. Maintenance of the building has virtually been nonexistent, and there is much accumulated debris surrounding the property. In its existing condition the house is the first incompatible visual element for visitors approaching the village.

The three buildings (residence, garage, and old butcher house) at the old village tenement building site would be the second priority. These buildings are also owner occupied and have been maintained reasonably well. However, all

three buildings are intrusions in the central part of the village. They have also been classified as noncontributing buildings within the national historic district.

The third priority is worker house D. The house is currently occupied by a large family. Maintenance has been nonexistent, and the building is quite substandard for housing. There is also a large accumulation of debris surrounding the building.

Worker house F and the Sunnydale Garden trailer park, both owned by the same person, are the fourth priority. The house is vacant, and maintenance activities have been virtually nonexistent and the house is frequently vandalized. The trailer park is occupied by 18 trailers. The suspected inadequate sewage facilities at the trailer park may contribute to the poor water quality in Felgars Run.

### **Utilities**

New, updated, or modified utility services would be required for much of the West Overton village site.

### **Potable Water and Fire Protection.**

Proposed improvements at the site would require potable water service to most of the historic structures and fire protection for all facilities. Water would be supplied from an existing distribution main passing through the site. The distribution main is owned and operated by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. Discussions with municipal authority representatives indicate that water supply and water pressure are adequate to meet future demand. Several of the buildings, including the distillery and the homestead, have water service. Water service would be extended as needed to implement the plan for

bathrooms, kitchens, concession areas, and maintenance utility sinks in other structures.

Primary fire protection is provided by the Volunteer Fire Company of East Huntingdon Township. The company can access two fire hydrants in the village. A third fire hydrant is proposed near the large barn and farmhouse, on an extension of the 8-inch water main near the intersection of Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive. As added protection, fire detection systems and sprinkler systems would be installed in several of the historic structures.

**Sanitary Sewer Service.** There is a septic tank and leachfield at the A. Overholt house and at the farmhouse, and probably at the distillery. As previously described, proposed development at the site (new bathrooms, kitchens, etc.) would include many facilities that generate wastewater. New plumbing fixtures are proposed for most of the buildings. These improvements along with current water uses would generate a substantial daily flow of wastewater. Based on preliminary estimates of visitation, concession operations, and employee activities, the use of an onsite treatment and disposal system appears impractical. Additional factors contributing to the problems with onsite disposal include flood-prone areas, soils, slopes, and conflicting land use.

As an alternative to onsite disposal, investigation into the construction of a collection system connected to the local municipality has been initiated. The system would include a series of collector sewers in the village and an outfall line connected with the Westmoreland-Fayette County Municipal Sewage Authority. The collector system would include two branches, one starting near the easternmost worker house and

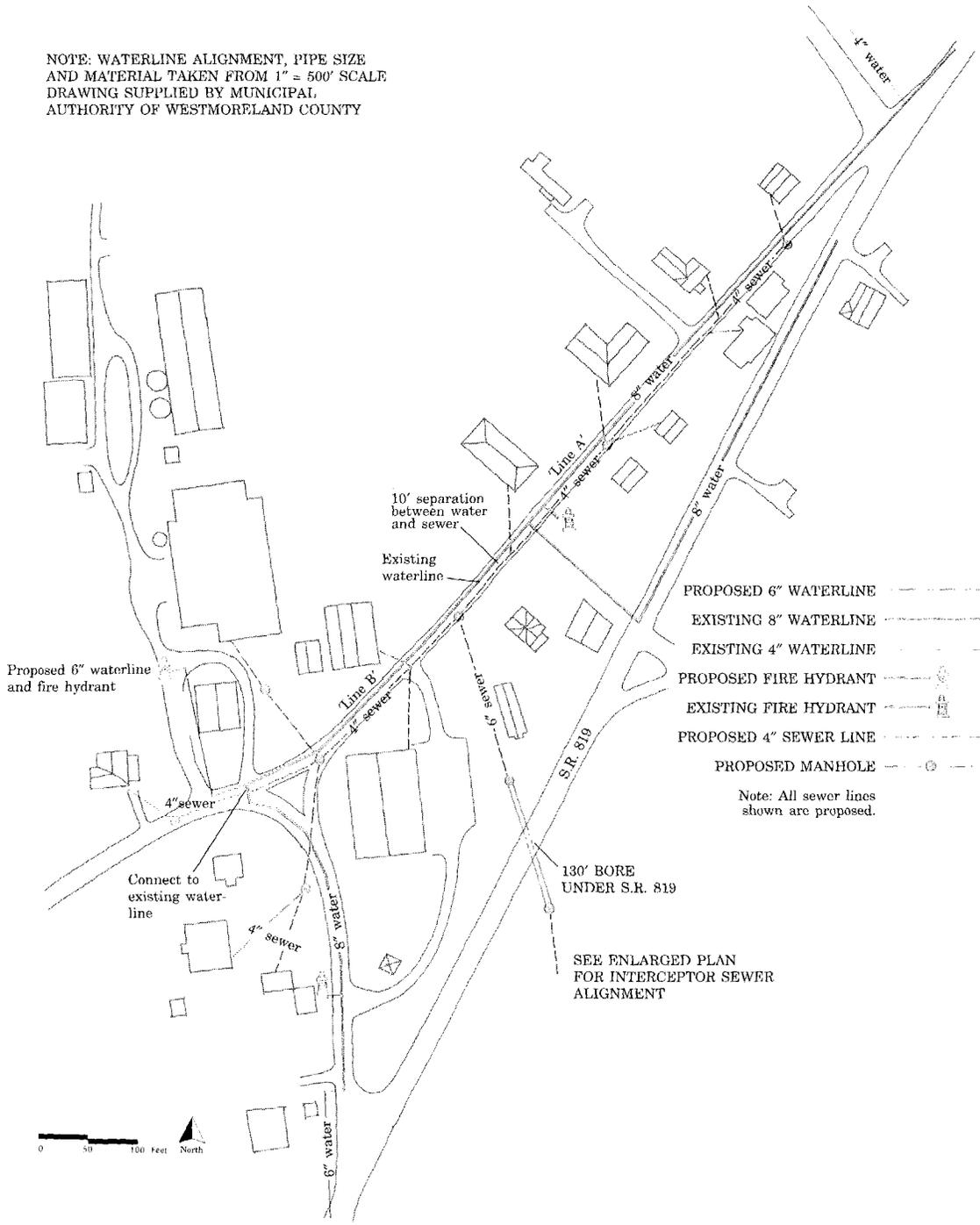
continuing west to Felgars Run and the other starting near the farmhouse and including service to the large barn (see Proposed Water and Sewage Plan). This branch would run east to Felgars Run picking up services at the distillery and the homestead. The collector system would be connected to the sewage authority.

The factors affecting the hookup to the sewage authority include physical constraints, property ownership, environmental concerns, costs and funding, treatment plant capacity, and inter-governmental agreements. West Overton is in the Felgars Run drainage tributary to Jacob's Creek. Felgars Run drainage is several drainages away from the closest terminal manhole in the sewage authority system. To reach this closest manhole near S.R. 819 and Sixth Street in Scottdale, the sewer would have to follow S.R. 819 southwest and require at least two sewage lift stations as the route rises and falls through adjacent drainages crossing S.R. 819. Along with the high cost and physical constraints of this alignment is the concern that consumers in the north Scottdale area would not be able to tie to this system.

As an alternate to the alignment along S.R. 819, investigation has begun on a route following the general alignment of Felgars Run to the south (see Proposed Sewage Connection to Scottdale). This route would follow the proposed Felgars Run pedestrian/bicycle greenway and has several advantages over the first route. It presents less physical constraints, it allows homes and businesses in the north Scottdale area to tie in, and cost-share funding may be available from Westmoreland County.

The connector line from West Overton to the sewage authority would start near the Felgars Run culvert under S.R. 819.

NOTE: WATERLINE ALIGNMENT, PIPE SIZE  
AND MATERIAL TAKEN FROM 1" = 500' SCALE  
DRAWING SUPPLIED BY MUNICIPAL  
AUTHORITY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

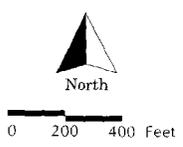
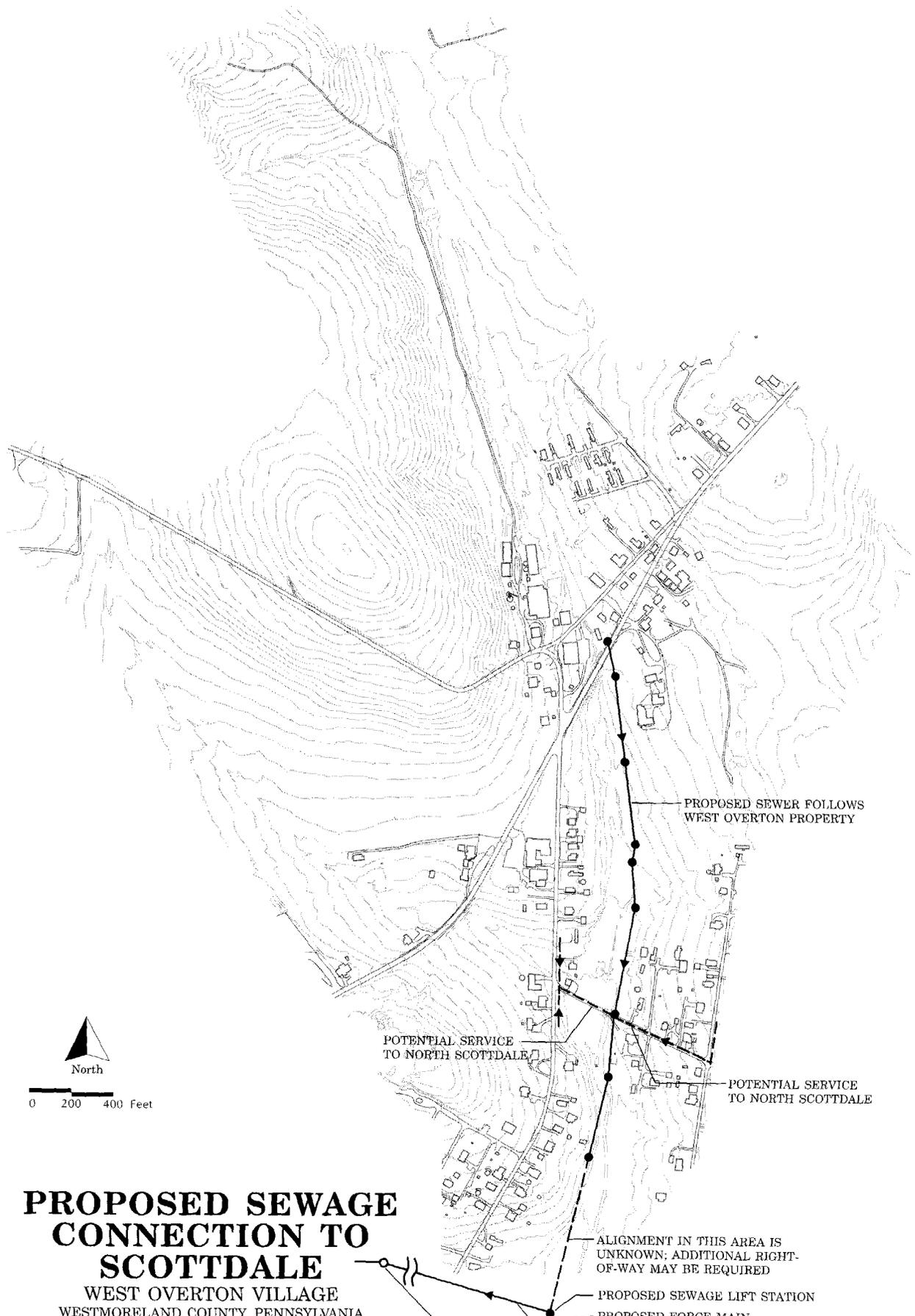


# PROPOSED WATER AND SEWAGE PLAN

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
DSC • 957 • 20085 • JUL 93

ON MICROFILM



# PROPOSED SEWAGE CONNECTION TO SCOTSDALE

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE  
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
 United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 DSC • 957 • 20101 • JUL 93

PROPOSED SEWER FOLLOWS WEST OVERTON PROPERTY

POTENTIAL SERVICE TO NORTH SCOTSDALE

POTENTIAL SERVICE TO NORTH SCOTSDALE

ALIGNMENT IN THIS AREA IS UNKNOWN; ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY BE REQUIRED

PROPOSED SEWAGE LIFT STATION

PROPOSED FORCE MAIN

CONNECT TO EXISTING SCOTSDALE BOROUGH MANHOLE NEAR SIXTH ST. AND SWEDETOWN RD.

ON MICROFILM

The interceptor must pass under the highway and continue south toward Jacobs Creek. The highway embankment at this location is high, and an open trench cut-in is not feasible. The sewer line would be bored under the highway for approximately 130 feet and continue approximately 3,100 feet south to a proposed pump station at Swedetown Road. The sewer alignment would follow a property corridor owned by West Overton Museums. The corridor does not extend to Swedetown Road; therefore, an additional utility easement must be acquired from one or more property owners along the route.

From the pump station at Swedetown Road between Lou Street and Overholt Drive, sewage would be forced against grade in a westerly direction to a manhole near the intersection of Swedetown Road and Sixth Street. Construction of the connector along Felgars Run would require a minimum of three creek crossings involving open trench construction with minimal disturbance to the creek bottom. Construction should occur during dry periods when creek flows are minimal and in conjunction with the proposed Felgars Run pedestrian/bicycle greenway. The construction of the sewer line in this area would allow most of the homes in the north Scottdale area access by lateral gravity sewers.

**Electric Power.** Electric capacity at the site is adequate for proposed development; however, unsightly power lines disrupt the historic character of the village. The power lines within designated boundaries in the village would be buried in protective conduits, probably at their present overhead location. All electric services to historic structures would be buried. Individual buildings could be metered separately to accommodate the proposed commercial uses.

**Telephone Service.** Bell of Pennsylvania service would be provided to most of the historic structures to accommodate staff communications, alarm systems, and concession requirements. The exterior phone lines would be buried in underground conduits.

**Natural Gas Service.** If improvements to the buildings' mechanical systems create a demand for gas, then connection to the nearby gas line would be investigated.

### **Hazardous Materials**

A level 1 survey to identify the potential for the presence of hazardous materials would be done. If the presence of hazardous materials is confirmed, further analysis would be done and any potential adverse effects would be mitigated according to applicable local, state, and federal regulations and concerns for public health and safety.

### **Geotechnical Investigation**

As a result of some groundwater problems, West Overton Museums hired GeoMechanics, Inc. to perform a preliminary groundwater study. The report describes the general geologic features, bedrock geology, mining history, and overburden soils at West Overton and evaluates methods of relieving the continuing problems of wet areas and standing water around the springhouse. The report indicates that there has been moisture in the basements of the homestead and the distillery. In conclusion, the report states "It is our opinion that the observed moisture problems are related to ground water flows in soils and near-surface bedrock." The report recommends a perimeter trench drain in several locations. The proposed plan

includes the perimeter drains at the locations indicated in the report (see appendix K).

## MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION

### Staffing

Existing staffing is four full-time and four part-time personnel. With the completion of the restoration and projected increased visitation, one additional full-time position and two additional part-time positions would be needed in addition to about seven part-time volunteers. The following list of full-time (F), part-time (P), and volunteer (V) staff would be required to operate the site.

### Administration:

Executive director (F)

Administrative assistant (P)

Secretary/bookkeeper (F)

Responsibilities: Development, promotion, public relations, village use/occupancy, preservation procedures, professional development, and staff support

### Operations:

Assistant director, village programs (F)

Responsibilities: Membership, gift shop, and coordination of all positions listed under operations

Education coordinator (P)

Responsibilities: Education, special events, adult education, curriculum and children's programs, publications, and research

Curator (F)

Responsibilities: Acquisition, accession, registration, treatment identification, cataloging, researching, library, and archives

Exhibits Technician (P)

Responsibilities: Maintaining objects, text, and labels; exhibit promotion design; handling and storage of exhibits.

Docents (P)(V)

Responsibilities: Provide staffing for the orientation center (1), museum introduction, gift shop, library, archives, information desk (2), village (1), homestead (1), and farm (1).

Security (P)(V)

Responsibilities: Safeguard the homestead, village, museum, and farm.

### Maintenance:

Foreman (F)

Responsibilities: Overall upkeep, regular maintenance activities, repair, setting up special events, and coordinating maintenance workers 1 (F), 2 (P)

### Annual Operating Costs

The following are the projected annual operating costs for the completed project.

• Salaries and benefits	\$200,000
• Other operating costs (utilities, marketing, maintenance)	<u>290,000</u>
Total estimated annual operating costs	\$490,000

## **Revenues**

Entrance fees would provide a large portion of the village's revenue. With the completion of the village restoration project, entrance fees would probably be increased from \$2.00 for an adult to \$8.00. Reduced fees would be charged for children, senior citizens, and groups. The average entrance fee would be approximately \$7.00. With an annual estimated visitation of 30,000, entrance fee revenues can be projected at approximately \$210,000. The remaining budget needs would have to be provided from membership fees, revenues from building leases and concession fees, gift shop revenues, special events, and grants, endowments, and donations. Consistent with the partnership concept, local management and operation of the village by West Overton Museums would continue. Ongoing federal funding of the village operation is not intended.

## **Partnership**

Funding for primary capital improvements for the village would be provided through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. Working through the commission, the National Park Service would continue to provide technical assistance for planning and design of the village restoration projects, including all interpretive design and historic preservation. It would be the responsibility of the West Overton Museums board of directors to continue

operating, managing, and maintaining the village as well as continuing its efforts to acquire all properties identified in the plan as necessary acquisitions to complete the restoration.

## **Marketing**

Completion of the restoration project would not guarantee the success of the village. To realize and sustain the projected visitation levels, a successful, ongoing marketing program must be implemented. A portion of West Overton Museums' operating budget and staff would be doing marketing and village promotion. This would be done in cooperation with the marketing program being developed for the partnership. In addition to these efforts, the development and implementation of special events, changing exhibits, and other programs would be necessary to draw repeat visitors.

## **FUNDING**

Table 1 presents class "C" gross estimates for the project.

## **PHASING**

The three phases presented in table 2 would be implemented in 1994, 1996, and 1998. An additional \$2 million for planning and design will be needed to complete these three phases. This money would be stretched over this time period.

TABLE 1. CLASS C COST ESTIMATES

	Restoration	Historic furnishings	Immediate stabilization	Interpretation (exhibits, etc.)	Costs
A. Overholt House	\$280,000	\$720,000 <sup>a</sup>			\$1,000,000
Springhouse/Cottage	120,000	92,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$500		212,500
Summer Kitchen/Washhouse	58,000	58,000 <sup>a</sup>	500		116,500
Carriage House	50,000	50,000 <sup>a</sup>	2,000		102,000
Smokehouse	23,000				23,000
Stables	112,000	127,000 <sup>a</sup>	2,000	\$32,000 <sup>a</sup>	273,000
Outbuilding	8,000				8,000
Farmhouse	148,000		3,000		151,000
Small Barn	195,000		10,000		205,000
Large Barn	371,000	296,000 <sup>a</sup>	17,000		684,000
Small Stable	54,000		2,000		56,000
Warehouse	155,000		4,000		159,000
Distillery	1,902,000			1,984,000 <sup>a</sup>	3,886,000
H.S. Overholt House	526,000		1,000		527,000
C.S. Overholt House	461,000		3,000		464,000
Worker House A	151,000				151,000
Worker House B	124,000		1,000	175,000 <sup>a</sup>	300,000
Worker House C	141,000		8,000		149,000
Worker House D	302,000		8,000		310,000
Worker House F	252,000		8,000		260,000
				SUBTOTAL	\$9,037,000
Road realignment/parking					700,000
Site work/cultural landscape restoration/landscaping					1,014,000
Greenway and creek rehabilitation					523,000
New sanitary sewer system and hookup					507,000 <sup>b</sup>
Water hookups					48,000
Locate overhead utilities underground					75,000
Wayside exhibits					100,000 <sup>a</sup>
Publications					143,000 <sup>a</sup>
Travelers information station					21,000 <sup>a</sup>
				SUBTOTAL	\$3,131,000
				GRAND TOTAL <sup>b</sup>	\$12,168,000

Note: Class C gross estimates include 31% for contingencies and project supervision.

<sup>a</sup> Estimate includes planning, production, equipment/conservation, and Harpers Ferry Center overhead.

<sup>b</sup> It is anticipated that part of this cost will be shared by the local municipalities who plan on tying into the new system.

**TABLE 2. PROJECT PHASING AND COSTS**

<b>PHASE 1</b>	
Road realignment/parking	\$700,000
Site work/cultural landscape restoration/landscaping	514,000
New sanitary sewer system and hookup	507,000
Water hookups	48,000
Locate overhead utilities underground	75,000
All immediate building stabilization	70,000
Distillery (restoration & exhibits)	3,886,000
Publications	143,000
Travel station	21,000
Waysides	<u>60,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,024,000</b>
<b>PHASE 2</b>	
Site work/cultural landscape restoration/ landscaping (farm area and Frick Ave.)	400,000
Stables (restoration & exhibits)	271,000
Farmhouse (restoration)	148,000
Small barn (restoration)	195,000
Large barn (restoration & exhibits)	667,000
Small stable (restoration)	54,000
Warehouse (restoration)	155,000
H.S. Overholt house (restoration)	526,000
C.S. Overholt house (restoration)	461,000
Worker house A (restoration)	151,000
Worker house B (restoration & exhibits)	299,000
Worker house C (restoration)	141,000
Worker house D (restoration)	302,000
Worker house F (restoration)	252,000
Waysides	<u>40,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,062,000</b>
<b>PHASE 3</b>	
Site work/cultural landscape restoration/ landscaping (homestead area)	\$100,000
Greenway and creek rehab	523,000
A. Overholt house (restoration & exhibits)	1,000,000
Springhouse/cottage (restoration & exhibits)	212,000
Summer kitchen/washhouse (restoration & exhibits)	116,000
Carriage house (restoration & exhibits)	100,000
Smokehouse (restoration)	23,000
Outbuilding (restoration)	<u>8,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,082,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,168,000</b>

## NO-ACTION PLAN

This alternative is provided as a basis of comparison to the proposed plan. Under a no-action alternative, the proposed project would not be implemented. It is assumed that current trends and patterns in resource condition, use, and management would continue. Restoration and adaptive use of existing structures would not take place, and intrusions into the historic scene would remain. The existing buildings would continue to deteriorate and require periodic maintenance. Unused buildings would continue to need stopgap repairs and security measures. The sewage system would not be improved, and existing overhead utilities would remain in place.

Potential benefits to surrounding landowners from improved facilities at the site would not occur. Future land acquisitions might not take place. Safety would remain an issue with continued vehicular and pedestrian conflicts and dangerous intersections with village streets, S.R. 819, and West Overton Road.

New links with other area recreation facilities would not be created. No major increases in visitation to the village would occur. Anticipated cutbacks in funding within the next few years would leave West Overton Museums financially vulnerable and in need of new sources for continued site operation.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

AREA/TOPIC	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>A. OVERHOLT HOMESTEAD</b>	
Stables	Staffed; would offer exhibits, initial site orientation/overview, and after-hours orientation/exhibits; one area would provide information about regional facilities.
Springhouse/Cottage	Lower level furnished as primary water source and cool storage area; first floor restored/refurnished as cottage rooms to tell story of Overholt family expansion and introduce Henry Clay Frick; attic left vacant.
Summer Kitchen/Washhouse	Restored/refurnished as summer kitchen and washhouse, showing life on the homestead.
Carriage House	Restored to exhibit a carriage.
Smokehouse	Restored as a smokehouse.
Outbuilding	No restoration; used as an exhibit room.
A. Overholt House	Use as house museum to interpret family history and accomplishments and family's influence on the village. Two rooms on north side ground floor restored/refurnished as kitchen and dining room; on first floor, southwest room restored/refurnished as children's bedroom, northwest room as a guest bedroom, and east rooms as Overholt's bedroom and parlor. Restoration of center hall and front porch. Second floor would continue as administrative offices, and attic used for storage (and maybe second-floor furnace).
<b>DISTILLERY</b>	Main orientation/visitor center
Basement	140 seat theater/multipurpose room with stage moved to west end, kitchen and coat room, restrooms, mechanical equipment room, maintenance shop, storage bin exhibits. Would present overview movie about West Overton and provide space for storytellers, musicians, dramatic presentations, skills demonstrations, and after-hours meeting room.
First Floor	Main visitor orientation/information/exhibits presented on this floor. Would have waiting area, introductory exhibit area, another large exhibit area, staffed information desk, a book/gift/crafts sales area (with storage area), a library/archives, and some office space.
Second Floor	Left open for exhibits on milling, distilling, and related industries and classrooms.
Third Floor	Used for a special events gallery, with movable seating, tables, and temporary exhibit panels.
Fourth Floor and Attic	Used for storage
Stairs/Elevators/Access	New fire stairs (to all floors) and elevator (to all but fifth-floor attic) would provide access.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PLAN (CONT.)

AREA/TOPIC	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>OVERHOLT STOCK FARM</b>	
Farmhouse	Used as housing for maintenance personnel; restored to original appearance, with interior rooms used much as they were originally.
Large Barn	Restored, with lower area used for exhibits and to store and display equipment, hand tools, and objects that illustrate farm's main crops and work activities and upper level for special events, festivals, and demonstrations.
Small Barn	Restored exterior; used as a working farm building, probably to house farm animals.
Warehouse	Would be rehabilitated for maintenance shop.
Small Stables	Rehabilitated and used for equipment storage for maintenance activities.
<b>RESIDENTIAL AREA</b>	
H.S. Overholt House	Basement used adaptively, perhaps for restaurant. First floor office space or small shops (restrooms in rear). Second floor used either for retail shops or office space.
C.S. Overholt House/Store	Basement used for retail sales, light food service, or offices, or perhaps a restaurant. First floor furnished as historic store with sales of items such as molasses, stone-ground cornmeal, etc. Retail craft shop or book sales and restrooms in rear and offices or retail space in east half of first floor. Second floor probably used for offices or retail sales and restrooms.
Worker House A	Restore exterior, front porch, and rear entry. Use first floor for offices or a bed-and-breakfast guest suite. Second floor also used for new uses. Attic vacant.
Worker House B	Restore interior and exterior to show how workers lived. Cellar and first-floor parlor and kitchen furnished to show social and economic lifestyle of village workers. Interpretation of the role of women, their families, and how their lives were shaped by living in company towns. Second floor and attic would remain vacant.
Worker House C	Possibly used for a rental residence, small offices, or a bed-and-breakfast guest suite.
Worker House D	Possibly used for a bed-and-breakfast inn, a rental residence, or small offices.
Worker House F	Possibly used for a bed-and-breakfast inn, a rental residence, or small offices.
<b>RE-CREATING HISTORIC SCENE</b>	Remove bituminous surface of village roads; replace with stabilized gravel surface. Remove culvert at Felgars Run crossing and replace with bridge similar to what was there historically. Restore historic road grid pattern in village (for pedestrian use). Restore Overholt family orchard and some of the kitchen and herb gardens and historic fence lines in the village. Maintain existing agricultural practices that create pastoral farmland setting. Remove intrusive nonhistoric buildings in historic district (including coke oven, modern residence, garage, old butcher house, and nonhistoric additions and shed to worker houses C and F. Bury utility lines in village and restore building facades.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PLAN (CONT.)

AREA/TOPIC	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>REDUCING VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN CONFLICTS</b>	Close intersection of S.R. 819 and Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive. Create new intersection at Overholt Drive and realign West Overton Road to tie into this intersection and route traffic around the village via the newly aligned road. Village roads would be used for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, and visitors with disabilities.
<b>FELGARS RUN GREENWAY AND LINKS TO OTHER AREAS</b>	Create loop trail west of stock farm that would include the coal mine, coke oven, and railroad bed sites. Trail would become a pedestrian/bicycle greenway along Felgars Run right-of-way that connects to Kendi park and soccer field in Scottdale and extends on to the Youghiogheny River trail.
<b>ADDITIONAL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM PROPOSALS</b>	Besides the 10 wayside exhibits and exhibits/exhibit panels in the village and various buildings, there would be a travelers information station (for contacting people in their automobiles just outside the village), oral histories from people who know the traditions and lifeways of the area would be collected, two site brochures and a handbook would be developed and published, personal services would be available, and special events and educational/community programs would be developed.
<b>RESEARCH AND ARCHIVAL COLLECTION</b>	An environmentally controlled space for storing artifacts would be developed in distillery, including storage and workroom space and a research library.
<b>SPECIAL POPULATIONS</b>	Accommodations would be made for visitors with sight, hearing, mental, and mobility impairments and for visitors who do not speak English, young children, and the elderly according to established guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
<b>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b>	Village managers and staff should develop cooperative community activities that make residents feel welcome and interested through using local people in interpretive activities; developing educational activities that involve area teachers and students; developing special events and seminars and training opportunities and an active volunteer program; using local people to manage the site's agricultural program, farm the crops, provide site security, and do special presentations about local history and culture; and developing a strong outreach program that encourages cooperative planning and program exchanges with other area cultural sites/facilities.
<b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>	Priorities for land acquisition by West Overton Museums would be (1) worker house C, (2) the three buildings at the old tenement building site (residence, garage, and old butcher house), (3) worker house D, and (4) worker house F and Sunnydale Garden trailer park.
<b>UTILITY LINES</b>	Potable water service would be provided to most of the historic structures (from existing distribution main). Fire protection would be provided for all facilities (through fire detection systems and sprinkler systems). Water treatment facilities would be provided by connecting to the local system (through a series of collector sewers in the village and an outfall line connected with the Municipal Sewage Authority). Adequate electric power exists; however power lines would be buried, and telephone service (buried lines) would be provided to most of the historic structures. Natural gas connections would be investigated if needed.
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	A level 1 survey to identify the potential for the presence of hazardous materials would be done. If the presence of hazardous materials is confirmed, further analysis would be done and any potential adverse effects would be mitigated according to applicable local, state, and federal regulations and concerns for public health and safety.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PLAN (CONT.)

AREA/TOPIC	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>BUILDING STABILIZATION</b>	Appropriate stabilization measures, including perimeter trench drains in several locations, would be done.
<b>MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION</b>	One additional full-time position and two part-time positions would be needed as well as seven part-time volunteers. Annual operating costs estimates are \$490,000. Initial funding for capital improvements would be provided through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission; continued operation would be responsibility of West Overton Museums. Marketing efforts would be developed and continued, in part through cooperation with the commission.
<b>FUNDING</b>	Construction funding would total approximately \$11,607,000 over a three-phase, five-year time frame.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

### ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE VIA THE TRAILER PARK ACCESS ROAD

A possible option considered for the main village visitor access was via the trailer park access road. The area is well suited for a parking area; however, entrance to the site would have to be from the intersection of Frick Road and S.R. 819. In the vehicular circulation analysis, this intersection was identified as dangerous. One of the objectives of the proposed plan is to reduce all vehicular conflict areas. There is limited site distance at this intersection as approaching vehicles descend at high speeds from the apex of a vertical curve that is less than 150 feet away. With the projected increase in village visitation increasing the use of this intersection would augment an already dangerous and unsafe situation.

Another reason not to develop this alternative is that the visitation sequence would be awkward under this alternative. In the proposed plan visitors enter the village near the stable where they are provided a basic orientation to the

village. From here, as visitors are directed the short distance to the distillery, they are greeted with some of the best views of the entire village. These views would not be available to visitors if they arrive from the trailer park site, which is about 700 feet away.

### RELOCATION OF S.R. 819

This alternative was not considered a realistic proposal at this time due to the anticipated high cost for such an endeavor. The planning/design team felt that this issue was considerably more intricate than just a simple road realignment. It would involve complex land-ownership issues, alternative route studies to determine other possible truck routes, an areawide traffic study, and possibly a new interchange at U.S. Highway 119. The team felt that the proposed plan adequately addresses all of the vehicular conflict areas and proposes vegetative screening along the road to help mitigate some of the undesirable roadway noise.

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resources at West Overton have been described in the previous text.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Physiography and Topography

West Overton is in the Allegheny Plateaus physiographic province, which is the largest landform in the region in the Appalachian Mountains. This province, characterized by deep stream valleys cutting through rolling uplands, covers the western and northern portions of Pennsylvania and forms the most rugged landscape in the state.

Topographically, West Overton is at the lower portion of a hillside that peaks to the northwest and is adjacent to the stream channel of Felgars Run. This tributary of Jacobs Creek flows from north to south to the east of the village. Elevations range from about 1,060 feet in the channel of Felgars Run to about 1,200 feet along the top of the hill to the northwest.

#### Geology and Soils

Pennsylvania's geologic history involves cycles of erosion, uplift, and more erosion. A series of mountain-building periods alternated with periods when shallow seas covered a great deal of eastern North America. Layers of limestone were deposited; vast swamps and marshes caused the accumulation of peaty plant materials that eventually became coal — bituminous in western Pennsylvania and anthracite in eastern Pennsylvania. The soils of Westmoreland

County formed mainly from the weathering of limestone and noncarbonate sedimentary rocks such as shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Rivers and major streams have cut deeply into the stacked, flat rock layers leaving cliffs or rounded benches according to the hardness of the rock (see also appendix G).

#### Prime and Unique Farmland

Two soils in the project area are classified as farmland of statewide importance. They are the Cavode silt loam, 3%–8% slopes, and the Wharton silt loam, 8%–15% percent slopes. Wharton silt loam, 3%–8% slopes, moderately eroded, is classified as prime farmland and is found south of West Overton (see appendix G for more information).

#### Climate

The climate of the project area is humid continental characterized by warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year. Average annual precipitation is approximately 40 inches in the western part of the county and about 50 inches in the eastern part. The growing season extends from early May to late September and typically ranges from 150 to 180 days.

Nearly half of the annual total precipitation falls between the first of May and the end of September. Rainfall in summer usually comes from short showers and thunderstorms. Thunderstorms occur 15 to 25 times a year on the average.

Snowfalls occur frequently and sometimes heavily from December through March, with snow generally covering the

ground about one-third of the winter. Total annual snowfall varies considerably throughout Westmoreland County, with less than 25 inches in the western part to 70 inches in the eastern part.

January is normally the coldest month and July the warmest month. Variations in climate within the county are a result of differences in topography. The higher elevations and more rugged terrain of the eastern part of the county result in lower temperatures and more rain and snowfall than in the western and central parts.

### **Air Quality**

Developed by the Environmental Protection Agency, a pollutant standards index (PSI) is published every day for various areas in Pennsylvania to report air quality to the public. Recorded in the index are levels of five common air contaminants — carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, PM-10 suspended particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide.

The closest monitoring station reporting air quality data for the index is about 20 miles from the project site at Charleroi in the Monongahela River valley. Monitoring data indicates that air quality was classified as good during 69% of 1991 and moderate for the remainder of the year, with no days classified as unhealthful or hazardous.

Ozone, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, is the only pollutant that is not considered to be in attainment. To comply with the air quality standard, a site can have no more than three instances of exceeding the standard for ozone over the last three years. However, no such instances for 1991 are listed at the Murrysville monitoring station in

northwestern Westmoreland County in the Pennsylvania Air Quality Report.

### **Water Resources**

Westmoreland County and West Overton are in the Ohio River basin. The region is drained primarily by Jacobs Creek, which flows into the Youghiogheny River, a tributary of the Monongahela River. Felgars Run, which flows through the project site, is classified as an intermittent stream north of West Overton and becomes a perennial stream in the vicinity of the site. Felgars Run drains into Jacobs Creek.

Jacobs Creek and the Youghiogheny River are both classified as warm-water fisheries in the West Overton vicinity according to state water quality standards. Streams with this classification are managed and regulated to maintain propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna that are indigenous to warm-water habitats. Felgars Run has not been classified.

Water quality samples of Felgars Run taken by the Department of Environmental Resources near the septic tank of the Sunnysdale Garden Estates trailer park indicated that the water is bearing a sewage load. A sample taken on the project site behind the distillery, within 200 yards of the first sampling, indicates a possible impact by the sewage discharge. The Department of Environmental Resources is notifying the appropriate local authorities of sampling results.

Two springs are in the historic district — one near the stone retaining wall adjoining the homestead house and the other near West Overton Road (S.R. 3004) in front of the farmhouse. The water table is about 18 inches below the surface at the fence behind the springhouse.

The high water table has caused the rear wall of the homestead house to rotate inward enough to create problems with closing some interior doors.

Domestic water is provided by the Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County, whose source is the reservoir at Mill Run. There is another storage facility at Gibson Reservoir. Half of the water comes from the Youghiogheny River, and the excess is returned to the river. The authority indicated that the system has a much greater treatment capacity than current use. Currently, sewage at the site is handled by two septic tanks, one at the northwest corner of the distillery parking lot and the other in the front yard of the homestead. A third tank might be on the Overholt stock farm. If a sewer line is constructed connecting West Overton with the Scottdale Borough system, the septic tanks will be drained and filled with dirt or sand, and the holes will be plugged.

### **Floodplains/Wetlands**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the site is not within either a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. The nearest designated 100-year floodplains are associated with Jacobs Creek and Stauffer Run, about 0.6 mile south and 1.1 miles west of the site, respectively (see Drainage and Vegetation map).

Wetlands are identified on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory 7.5 minute quadrangle map for the Connellsville area. The map classifies the banks of Felgars Run as a palustrine temporary wetland system, which is forested with broad-leaved deciduous vegetation. Forested wetlands vegetation in the mid-Atlantic region typically includes black gum, green ash, red

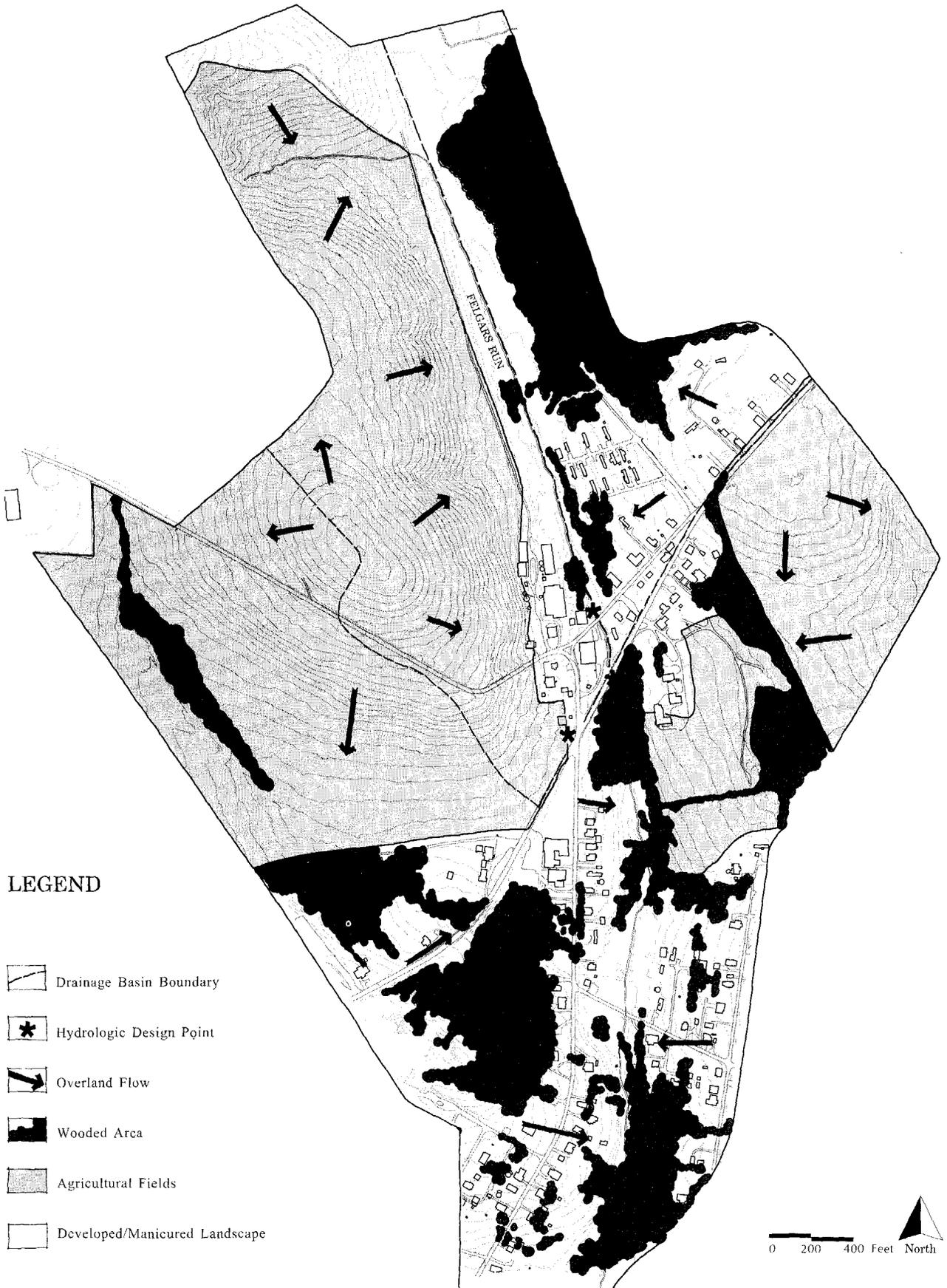
maple, silver maple, pin oak, sweetgum, or willow oak. This classification is considered a riparian zone and is not regarded as a jurisdictional wetland by the Department of Environmental Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers. (A jurisdictional wetland is regulated under section 404 of the Clean Water Act or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1989.) However, a site-specific investigation for wetlands has not been conducted for the village area.

### **Vegetation**

Westmoreland County is in the Appalachian oak forest section of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Province. Undisturbed areas are typically deciduous forest dominated by tall, broadleaf trees that provide a continuous and relatively dense canopy. Repeated cuttings and clearing of the land for timber, farming, and other development have caused the disappearance of the dense primitive forests that once covered the county.

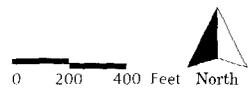
The dominant woodland cover in Westmoreland County is the red oak forest type with the northern red oak predominating. Other species associated with this type include the black oak, chestnut oak, scarlet oak, and yellow-poplar. The sugar maple-beech-yellow birch and the aspen-gray birch are the two types that make up most of the rest of the woodland (see Drainage and Vegetation map).

West Overton's pastoral setting has been modified by agriculture and modern settlement. The site contains maintained disturbed areas, agricultural use areas (mainly hay production), and developed areas consisting of residences, roads, farm structures, and parking areas.



**LEGEND**

-  Drainage Basin Boundary
-  Hydrologic Design Point
-  Overland Flow
-  Wooded Area
-  Agricultural Fields
-  Developed/Manicured Landscape



**DRAINAGE AND VEGETATION**

WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

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Trees at the site include mostly silver, Norway, and hybrid maples with a few sugar, red, and chalk maples. Horse chestnut, box elder, black locust, yellow poplar, black and Norway spruce, and northern white cedar are interspersed throughout the site. Four Granny Smith and northern spy apple trees are on the hillside behind the A. Overholt house. The site does not include any known unique or rare vegetation communities.

### **Wildlife and Aquatic Life**

Dominant wildlife species in Westmoreland County area are species typical of deciduous forest and agricultural habitats in the northeastern United States. These species include animals such as rabbits, gray squirrels, migrating waterfowl, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and woodcocks.

Most of the project area has been disturbed for agricultural and development purposes, leaving habitats that are suitable for a variety of game species including bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, and ring-necked pheasants.

Trout fishing is available in several area streams and lakes in Westmoreland County. Common fish species in the warm-water portion of the Youghiogheny River include smallmouth bass, spotted bass, and walleye. Species in Jacobs Creek include bluntnose minnow, brown trout, fantail darter, and pumpkinseed.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Bureau of Forestry, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were consulted regarding the presence of threatened and endangered species and species of special

concern at the site. Except for occasional transient species, there are no known threatened, endangered, or candidate species of special concern at or in the immediate site vicinity (see appendix N). The Pennsylvania Game Commission has record of the upland sandpiper occurring about 3.3 miles southeast of the project site. However, the commission has concluded that this distance is not close enough to be impacted by the project.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has compiled a list of 48 endangered, threatened, and special concern species that potentially occur at the site or are migrating species. Thirty-seven bird, three reptile, and eight mammal species are on the list (see appendix N). Most of the habitat in the area has been disturbed. Suitable habitat for most of these species has been limited because of agricultural use and development.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

There is potential for asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint in buildings at the site. Possible effects might include inhalation of asbestos fibers, ingestion or contact with lead-based paint, exposure to PCB-containing materials, and other adverse effects.

One underground gasoline storage tank has been removed. Four electrical transformers, contents unknown, are on the site. The four electrical transformers do not currently pose an environmental hazard; additional investigation would be done if the transformers were removed or relocated.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **Land Use**

A variety of land uses occur in Westmoreland County, ranging from predominantly agricultural uses in rural areas to industrial and residential uses in urban areas. Dairy farming is the primary agricultural enterprise in the county. Other types of farming include beef, poultry, sheep, timber, and vegetable. In addition to dairy products, farms in the county produce barley, eggs, hay, mushrooms, oats, sweet corn, turkeys, and wheat. Also, soybean production has increased in recent years.

The main urban/suburban centers in the county are clustered close to U.S. Highway 119, which runs north and south. The centers include Greensburg, Mount Pleasant, and Scottdale. Land uses in these communities are typical of small to moderately sized urban and suburban areas (see Existing Land Use map).

The dominant land use around the site is agricultural with scattered residential and commercial uses. A restaurant, personal care/nursing home, trailer park, and commercial distributor are close to the site. A landfill about 1.4 miles to the northwest is maintained by the Waste Management Company.

The Office of Surface Mining records indicate that coal was mined in the area from 1900 to 1936. West Overton mine, on the hillside northwest of the site, was deep-mined using the room and pillar method at an elevation of about 1,100 feet. Local residents have stated that strip mining took place in more recent times to remove the remaining coal (Camtech Inc./Geomechanics Inc. 1992). The historic district lies between coal seams; consequently, no mining took

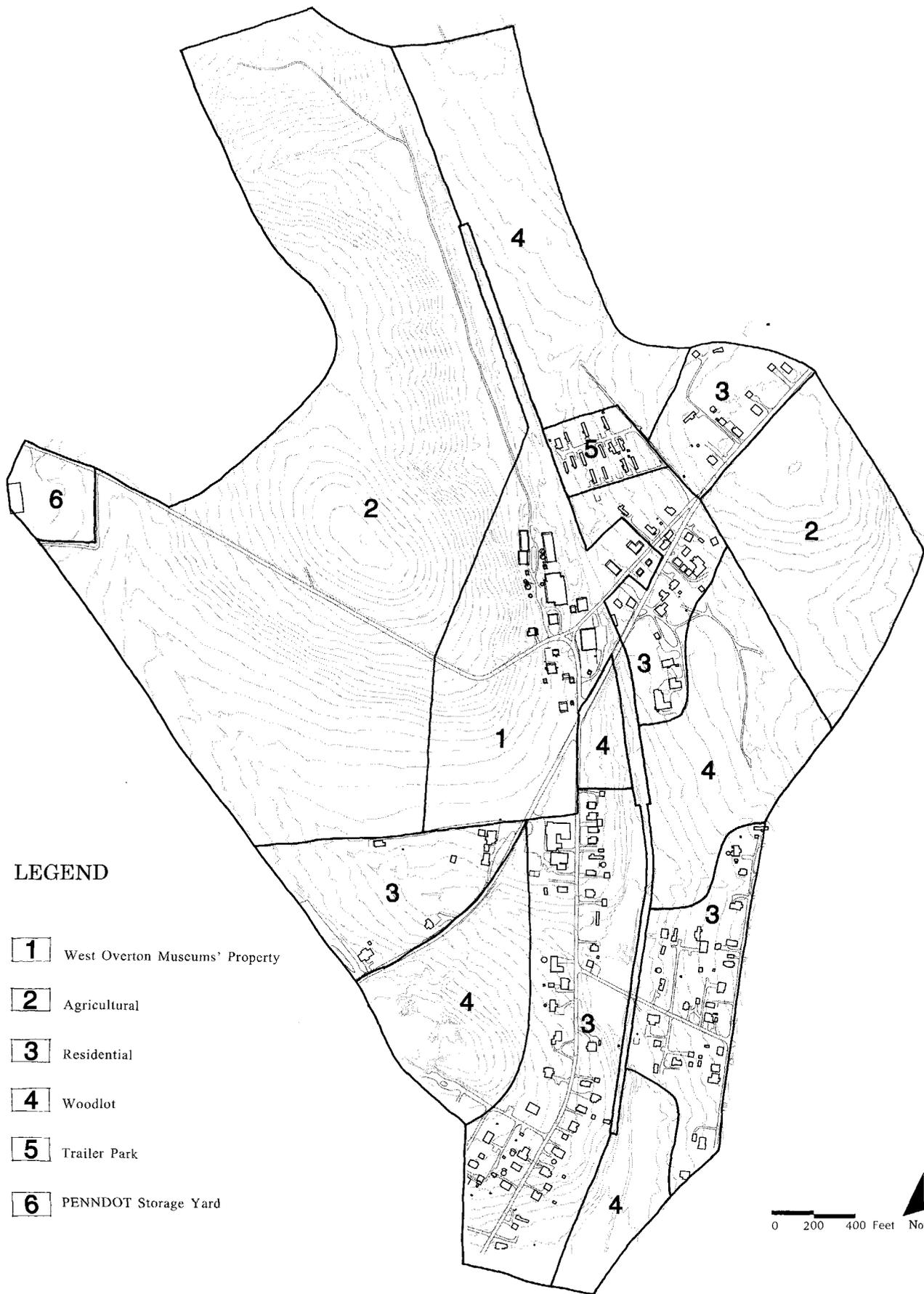
place beneath the village and there should be no subsidence problems.

### **Transportation**

The highway system serving West Overton is comprised of U.S. Highway 119, which traverses the county in a north-south direction, State Route 819, which is the connecting arterial to U.S. 119, and State Route 3004, which curves through the site. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the average daily traffic count for U.S. 119 is approximately 14,000 in the vicinity of the site. This four-lane route is a primary connecting route with Interstates 70 and 76 about 8 miles north of the site. S.R. 819, carrying between 10,000 and 11,000 vehicles per day near the site, is a two-lane route with a center third lane for turns. West Overton Road (S.R. 3004) is a rural two-lane route with an average daily traffic volume of about 660 vehicles. Township Road 327 (Frick Avenue) bisects the site and connects S.R. 819 with West Overton Road. No recent traffic volume counts were available for this road.

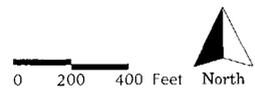
### **Recreation**

Outdoor recreation opportunities in Pennsylvania are diverse, and 35% of the state's 28 million acres is available for recreational use. Pennsylvania is within a half-day's drive for nearly half of the American population. In addition to local visitors, areas with rivers, parks, forests, and other recreational attractions receive a substantial influx of visitors from other states. Significant state recreational resources include state forest lands, state game lands, a number of state parks, and several historic sites, buildings, and museums.



**LEGEND**

- 1** West Overton Museums' Property
- 2** Agricultural
- 3** Residential
- 4** Woodlot
- 5** Trailer Park
- 6** PENNDOT Storage Yard



**EXISTING LAND USE**

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State parks in the region include Keystone, Kooser, Laurel Hill, Laurel Ridge, Laurel Summit, Linn Run, and Ohiopyle. The parks provide a variety of activities including biking, boating, camping, downhill and cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, swimming, and whitewater rafting. (Availability of various facilities and activities vary by park.) Peak visitation occurs from May through October at most of the state parks. With the exception of Linn Run, the parks were not forced to turn visitors away due to maximum occupancy during the period of June 1991 through May 1992.

A new outdoor recreation resource within 10 miles of the site is the Youghiogheny River Trail. Passing through portions of Fayette, Westmoreland, and Allegheny counties, the trail will follow the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad right-of-way for 43 miles. It will function as a connecting link for towns and parks along the Youghiogheny River valley between Connellsville and McKeesport. Opportunities will be provided for non-motorized recreation activities including backpacking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, picnicking, horseback riding, and walking. In addition, opportunities for fishing, historic interpretation, and observing nature will be available.

Many significant historic resources are found in the region including the following sites.

**Fort Necessity National Battlefield.**

Fort Necessity's circular stockade was built in 1754 by George Washington's Virginia militia. Washington's first military engagement took place at nearby Jumonville where French commander Coulon de Jumonville was killed. In retaliation, Washington and his troops were attacked by a French and Indian

contingent and were forced to evacuate the fort. This battle was a prelude to the French and Indian War, which lasted until 1763.

The park includes not only the fort, the battlefield, and the Jumonville Glen battlefield, but also the grave site of General Braddock who was fatally wounded in the battle of the Monongahela in 1755. Mount Washington Tavern is another unit of the park. Built in 1827 and 1828 on land previously owned by George Washington, the tavern was a popular stagecoach stop.

**Friendship Hill National Historic Site.**

Friendship Hill is the home built by Albert Gallatin in 1789. Originally from Switzerland, Gallatin served in various capacities including representative to Congress, secretary of the treasury under Jefferson and Madison, and minister to Great Britain and France. He was president of the National Bank of New York and one of the founders of New York University. In addition, he developed the concept of the National Road.

**Fort Ligonier.** Fort Ligonier is a stockade built near Loyalhanning Indian Town. It was used by British General John Forbes as a staging area in 1758 during the French and Indian War. The fort fell into disrepair after it was abandoned in 1765, but it was reconstructed onsite beginning in 1954.

**Fallingwater.** Fallingwater, designed and built in 1936 for Pittsburgh department store owner Edgar J. Kaufmann, is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most widely acclaimed works. Architecturally ahead of its time, it is built on gigantic boulders over a rushing waterfall. The property served as the family's weekend retreat until 1963 when it was donated to the

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; it was opened to the public in 1964.

### Socioeconomics

West Overton is part of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area. According to the 1990 census, Westmoreland County has a population of about 370,300 people, a decline of about 5.6% from the 1980 population of about 392,300.

The age structure in Westmoreland County is older than the national average. The median age in the county is 37.7; the national median age is 32.9.

Despite the decrease in county population since 1980, the number of households has increased by about 3.5%. This increase is typically the result of declining household size, which can be attributed to factors such as a rising divorce rate, postponing or foregoing marriage, or the growing trend for seniors to live independently.

Median household income in Westmoreland County increased moderately from about \$17,800 in 1980 to approximately \$25,700 in 1990. The median household income for the county in 1990 is about 14% less than the U.S. median income of approximately \$30,000.

Before 1980 the employment base in Westmoreland County had been oriented toward heavy manufacturing. Since 1980, the economy has diversified; in 1990 the service sector represented the largest number of workers with 24% of the total employment. The manufacturing and retail sectors each represent 21% of the county's total employment.

According to the Bureau of the Census, the unemployment rate in the county has decreased from 7.8% in 1980 to 7.1% in 1990, which is greater than the figure of 6.3% for the United States in 1990.

Lodging accommodations in the county are concentrated in Greensburg and New

TABLE 4. WESTMORELAND COUNTY SOCIOECONOMIC DATA, 1980-1990

PARAMETER	1980 COUNTY CENSUS	1990 COUNTY CENSUS	PERCENT INCREASE/ DECREASE 1980-90	U. S. 1990 CENSUS
Population	392,294	370,321	-5.6	248,709,873
Households	139,233	144,080	3.5	91,947,410
Median Household Income	\$17,795	\$25,736	44.6	\$30,056
Civilian Labor Force 16 years & older	169,886	170,657	0.45	123,473,450
Employment	156,687	156,108	-0.37	115,681,202
Unemployment Rate (percent)	7.8	7.1	-0.7	6.3

Stanton, which are about 15 and 8 miles from the site, respectively. There are over 1,200 guest rooms in these two cities. The towns of Irwin, North Belle Vernon, and Ligonier combined provide about 500 guest rooms. All are within 25 miles of the site. Collectively, these facilities accommodate about 55%–65% of their capacity, which means there would be room for some of the increased numbers of visitors expected.

Business travelers account for an estimated 60%–65% of the lodging demand in Westmoreland County. Tourists account for an estimated 25%–30%, and 5%–15% is group business. Peak season for lodging occurs between May and September, with the slowest demand during January and February. Late fall and spring seasons are moderately busy.

## UTILITIES

West Overton currently has utility service for the major utilities, including municipal water from the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, electric power from the West Penn Power Company, and telephone service provided by Bell of Pennsylvania. Wastewater disposal occurs at several onsite septic/leachfield treatment facilities. Natural gas supply lines do not extend to West Overton but do extend to commercial facilities in the area. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania supplies natural gas. Cable TV service has not been investigated.

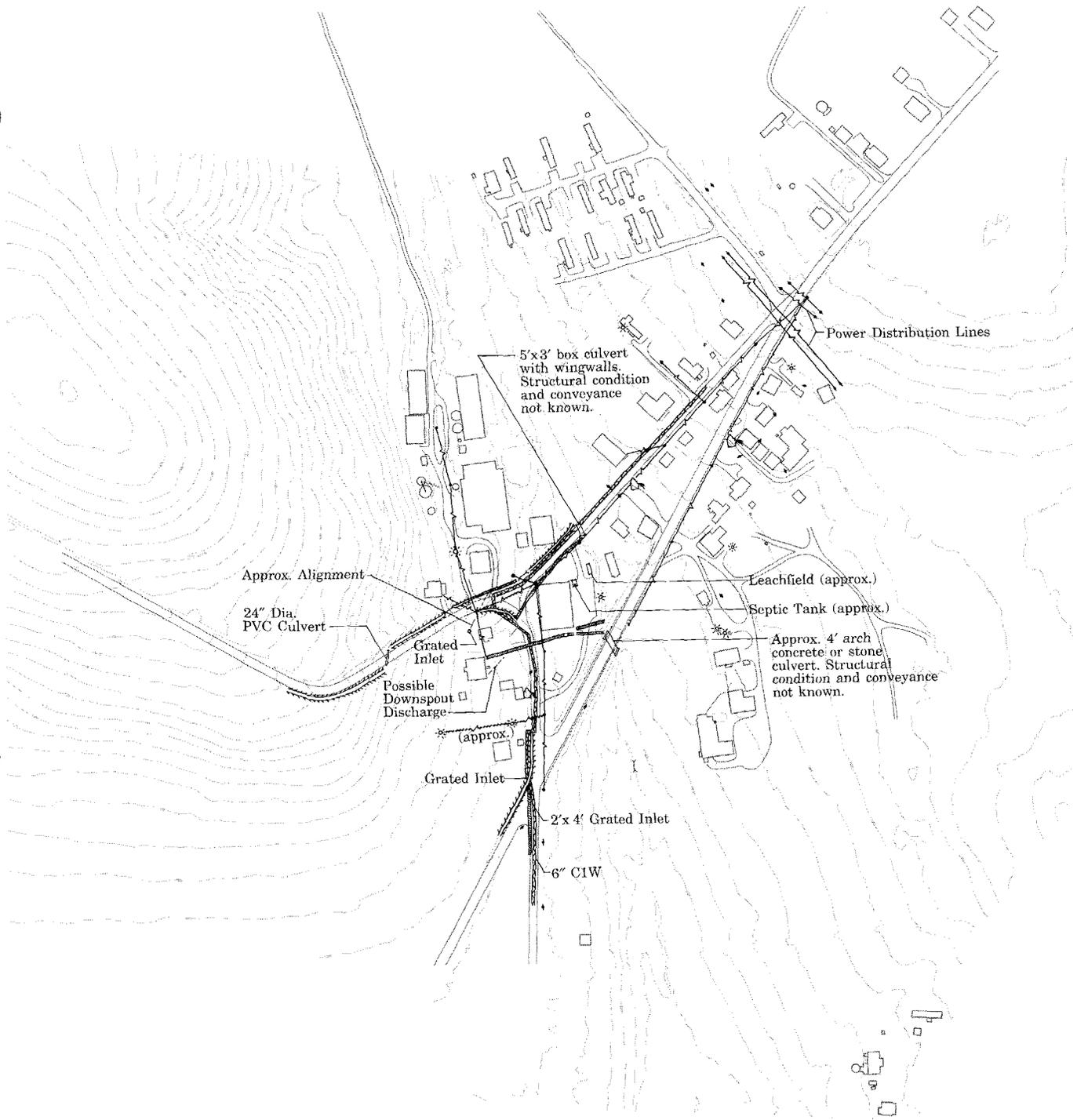
There is an 8-inch diameter PVC water main that runs down Frick Avenue past the worker houses and the Overholt house to the intersection of Frick Avenue and Overholt Drive. The water main then continues east on Overholt Drive, crosses

S.R. 819, and continues to the north Scottdale area (see Existing Utilities map). Wastewater goes to an onsite treatment and disposal system. Separate systems exist for the homestead and the mill. Regional sewage disposal is available in Scottdale, but there are no collectors extending to West Overton. West Penn Power Company supplies electrical power to the site. Bell of Pennsylvania provides telephone service. Refuse service is provided by Waste Management of Laurel Valley.

## Sanitary Sewer Service

There is limited knowledge about the details of current wastewater disposal facilities at West Overton. Information on buried septic systems included in this report relies solely on discussions with maintenance personnel at West Overton. The Abraham Overholt home currently has bathrooms and a kitchen; the wastewater is collected in a buried septic tank in the front yard area of the house. After some initial settling in the septic tank, the wastewater flows into a leachfield in that same area. There is no information on the size, shape, or material construction of the tank or septic field.

The farmhouse on West Overton Road, occupied until recently, has bathrooms, a kitchen, and wash facilities. Because there is no sewage collection system in the area and no evidence of surface water discharge of wastewater from the farmhouse, it is assumed that there is a septic tank and leachfield system. The distillery is thought to have a disposal system similar to the Overholt homestead. The remaining unoccupied historic structures have no known treatment and disposal systems for wastewater.



**LEGEND**

- |   |                |   |                  |
|---|----------------|---|------------------|
|  | Open Swale     |  | 8-inch Waterline |
|  | Culvert        |  | Power Pole       |
|  | Storm Sewer    |  | Street Light     |
|  | Overhead Power |  | Fire Hydrant     |
|  | Buried Power   |   |                  |



**EXISTING UTILITIES**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

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### **Electric Power**

Overhead three-phase power is supplied to West Overton village by West Penn Power Company. Primary lines (12Kv) carry power down Frick Avenue past the worker houses to the distillery and homestead. Power lines continue along Overholt Drive across S.R. 819. Four pole-mounted transformers in the village provide 120/240 volt, three-wire service for the distillery, the homestead, the farm, and residences. All current users are metered and pay regular bills to West Penn Power Company.

### **Telephone Service**

Bell of Pennsylvania provides telephone service to West Overton village. Not all of the historic structures currently have service.

### **Natural Gas Service**

There is no natural gas service to West Overton. There are buried natural gas lines in the area.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section describes the impacts of not implementing the plan — the no-action alternative — and implementing the plan. Because they are brief, the impacts of no action are described first.

### NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

#### Impacts on Cultural Resources

The no-action alternative poses few adverse impacts on those properties already owned and operated by West Overton Museums. Interpretation of the A. Overholt house would continue; however, the house would remain in its current condition. Restoration of the rooms would not be likely.

West Overton Museums would continue to maintain its resources, including the distillery, warehouse, springhouse, washhouse, smokehouse, carriage house, stables, farm buildings, H.S. Overholt house, C.S. Overholt house, and worker houses A and B. However, these resources, like the A. Overholt house, would likely be left essentially in their present condition. No efforts would be made to restore any of the resources' significant features to enhance the visitor experience.

The no-action alternative does pose some adverse impacts for resources currently owned by the museum. These include worker houses C, D, and F. These resources probably would not be acquired by the museum, and their integrity would continue to deteriorate under this alternative.

#### Impacts on Natural Resources

**Topography/Soils/Prime and Unique Farmland.** With the no-action plan, no major ground disturbance would take place. With continued maintenance operations, alterations at the site would be minor. Consequently, there would be no known significant impacts on topography, soils, or prime and unique farmland at the project site.

**Air Quality.** There would be no short- or long-term discernible impacts on the overall air quality at West Overton. With no construction activities proposed, pollution from dust and fumes would remain at approximate present levels. Without an increase in visitors, it is anticipated that traffic and associated vehicular pollutants would remain at current levels.

**Water Quality/Resources.** Under the no-action alternative there would be no anticipated impacts on water quality. Water quality in Felgars Run would remain about the same, assuming that sewage continues to overflow from the septic tank at the trailer park.

**Vegetation.** No long- or short-term impacts on vegetation are expected under the no-action alternative. No substantive losses or degradation of vegetative cover from construction activities would be likely to occur.

**Wetlands/Floodplains.** No project-related impacts to wetlands would occur. With current maintenance operations and management, wetlands along the banks of Felgars Run would remain in their approximate present condition. The project site is not within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

**Wildlife and Aquatic Life.** With no appreciable changes in operations and management of the area, it is anticipated that habitat deterioration or loss would not occur. Current wildlife and aquatic use patterns would be expected to continue.

**Threatened and Endangered Species.** Under the no-action alternative, no project-related disturbances to known threatened, endangered, or special concern species would occur. It is assumed that migrating and accidental occurrences of special-concern species in the project vicinity would reflect existing conditions and trends.

#### **Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment**

**Land Use/Recreation/Socioeconomics.** The agricultural, residential, and commercial land uses occurring in the area would remain the same. Recreation opportunities would not be expanded with links to other facilities in the area. The economy in the surrounding area would remain with emphasis on agriculture.

**Transportation.** With no project-related increase in visitation, existing traffic conditions on roadways surrounding the project site would remain. Conflicts would continue between pedestrians and vehicles along Frick Avenue and at the intersection of Frick Avenue, West Overton Road, and Overholt Drive.

#### **Impacts on Visual Resources/Aesthetics**

Under the no-action alternative, aesthetic benefits of the project would not be realized. Intrusive structures within the

project site would remain. Views of busy S.R. 819 would continue to be distracting.

#### **Impacts on Visitor Experience**

The potential project-related benefits to visitors at West Overton would not be implemented. There would likely be no expansion of educational or recreational opportunities for visitors. Current vehicular circulation patterns within the site would likely continue to compromise resident/visitor safety.

#### **Impacts on Public Health and Safety**

No hazardous materials have been definitely identified; under the no-action alternative, any potential hazardous materials would be left in their current condition and location.

### **THE PROPOSED PLAN**

#### **Impacts on Cultural Resources**

**Stables.** Using this structure for visitor orientation and exhibits would not require alteration of the structure; there would be no adverse impacts.

**Springhouse/Cottage.** Research into the original appearance of this structure before reconstruction would avoid or minimize impacts on the structure's overall historic character.

**Summer Kitchen/Wash House.** The structure's historic character would not be impacted by using it to demonstrate everyday life on the homestead.

**Carriage House.** The structure's historic character would not be impacted by using it to display a carriage exhibit.

**Abraham Overholt House.** The building exterior would not be altered to use it as a museum under the proposed plan. The interior restoration of the ground and first floors using original furnishings whenever possible would help re-create the historic scene. Impacts on the structure's historic features would be minimal.

**Distillery.** Interpretation in the current museum building would be reoriented toward an emphasis on life at West Overton, including the various industries of distilling, milling, cooperage, and agriculture. Alterations would retain its open, industrial, heavy timber-framed character. With no exterior alterations, impacts on the building would be minimal.

**Farmhouse.** Use of this structure to house maintenance personnel would not pose an adverse impact on a historic resource; the house is not a contributing feature of the historic district.

**Large Barn.** Use of this structure to store and display farm equipment and for special events, etc., would pose no adverse impacts on the structure's historic fabric and would not detract from its historic function.

**Small Barn.** Using this structure as a working farm building would continue its historic use and would not pose an adverse impact.

**The Warehouse.** Using this building as a maintenance shop would not involve any exterior alteration and would involve minor interior alteration; there would be no adverse impacts on the structure.

**Small Stable.** Because the building's exterior would not be altered for use by the West Overton Museums' maintenance department, there would be no impacts

on the interior features or the buildings' historic character as features of the historic district.

**C.S. Overholt House/Store.** Redoing the building's interior historic configuration would pose some potential impacts; however, incorporating existing details and layout as much as possible would minimize impacts.

**H.S. Overholt House.** Using this building for retail, restaurant, and office space within the limits of the existing layout and including as much of the historic fabric as possible would minimize impacts on the structure's integrity.

**Worker House A.** Because the interior has been substantially altered, adaptive use would pose little adverse impact on the resource. Restoring features of the building's exterior, including the front and back porches, would be a positive impact.

**Worker House B.** Restoration would pose no adverse impact on the building.

**Worker Houses C, D, and F.** Exterior restoration of these buildings and sensitive adaptive use of the interior would greatly add to the preserved historic character of the village and have no known negative impact on the interiors.

### **Impacts on Natural Resources**

The proposed plan would potentially impact natural resources in the project vicinity, including topography, soils, vegetation, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. However, these effects would be minimal. Most of the natural resources have been altered by human activity, including agricultural and urban development.

**Topography.** The proposed realignment of West Overton Road west of the homestead and south of the stable would not result in major alterations to the topography. Grading for the road would disturb about 1.84 acres, and cuts in the contours of the hillside would measure no more than 10 feet deep. Construction of the parking lot into the hillside and adding mounding for screening would result in a minor alteration of the topography, affecting approximately 1.6 acres. Because the area of disturbance would be relatively narrow and elevations would not be substantially altered, no significant impacts would occur.

**Soils.** Implementation of the proposed alternative would result in short-term impacts related to construction activities. These impacts include soil disturbance and vegetation removal during realignment of the road and construction of the historic road grid, removal of the culvert under Frick Avenue and installation of an historic bridge, replacement of the culvert under S.R. 819 with a tunnel, and construction of the sewer line, underground utilities lines, parking lot, and pedestrian/bicycle trail. These activities would affect about 10.7 acres of disturbed area. In addition, minor soil disturbance would take place when planting the historic orchard and gardens and the vegetation screens. These impacts include permanent disturbance, displacement, and compaction of about 3.2 acres of soils. Because of the relatively small area affected, the temporary nature of the effects, and because of the disturbed condition of the area, the impacts on soil would not be significant.

An erosion and sedimentation control plan, prepared and submitted to the district conservationist for approval prior to construction, would identify erosion control measures to be implemented during project construction. Where soil

erosion is of concern, erosion control measures would be implemented to minimize soil loss during and after construction activities. In addition, prompt stabilization of disturbed soils and reseeding would prevent substantial soil loss and assist revegetation.

**Prime and Unique Farmland.** No prime farmland would be permanently or temporarily committed to uses other than agricultural with implementation of the proposed plan. Cavode silt loam (3%–8% slopes) and Wharton silt loam (8%–15% slopes) are classified as farmland of statewide importance. These soils underlie the major portion of the realignment of West Overton Road. However, the conversion of less than 2 acres of farmland to roadway would have no appreciable effect on agricultural productivity in the area.

**Air Quality.** Short-term impacts on air quality would occur during construction activities including realigning West Overton Road, removing asphalt from the old roadway sections, aligning the sewer line, and constructing the parking lot and trail. Increases in emissions from construction equipment, along with dust and particulates from construction activities, would occur. However, quantities of dust and emissions generated would be minimal and temporary. Therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated.

As the number of visitors to the project site grows, long-term impacts on air quality would result from an increase in vehicle emissions. However, current air quality is relatively good, and the increase in emissions levels would be intermittent, occurring primarily during peak visitation periods. Consequently, no significant long-term impacts to air quality are expected.

**Water Quality/Resources.** Short-term degradation of surface water quality would be caused by removing the culverts under Frick Avenue and S.R. 819 and constructing the sewer line. Potential impacts from these construction activities include an increase in turbidity and sediment loading. Because the effects of these activities would be temporary, the impacts on surface water quality would not be significant.

Long-term impacts of the proposed alternative on water quality would be confined to runoff from the proposed parking lot. However, the parking area is limited in size, and the quantities of pollutants are not anticipated to result in significant affects to local water quality.

Under the proposed plan, no short-term or long-term effects are expected on groundwater on or near the project site. Diversion of spring water near the homestead and springhouse would have no appreciable impacts on water quality.

An increase in visitors would result in a modest increase in water demand at West Overton. However, the Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County has indicated that water supplies and treatment facilities have adequate capacity to meet the expected demand. Westmoreland and Fayette County Municipal Sewage Authority also has indicated that treatment capacity is sufficient to handle increased loading generated from development at West Overton.

**Vegetation.** Impacts on vegetation generally would be short term, limited in area, and associated with construction on a disturbed agricultural and urban site. Short-term impacts would include removal and crushing of vegetation during construction of the road realignment, the historic road grid, parking lot, and trail

and during trench excavation for the sewer line and underground utilities.

Construction of the sewer line would disturb approximately 5.5 acres and would necessitate removing a few trees along part of the alignment.

The disturbed portions of the site would be revegetated promptly after construction is completed. In construction areas where steep slopes and erodible soils occur, erosion control measures would minimize soil loss and facilitate revegetation.

Long-term adverse effects include the permanent loss of approximately 3.2 acres to paved or compacted surfaces for the road, historic road grid, trail, and parking lot. There are no known rare or unique types of vegetation that would be affected by the project. Most vegetation communities that would be affected have been disturbed previously and are common throughout the region. Therefore, implementing the proposed alternative would not have significant impacts on vegetation at the project site.

**Wetlands/Floodplains.** Direct impacts to the riparian zone along Felgars Run would be related to construction of the sewer pipeline and underground utilities lines. However, impacts would be minimal and are expected to disturb a total of less than .25 acre of wetlands for the three crossings of Felgars Run. All efforts would be made to minimize, to the extent possible, the disturbance to riparian vegetation.

In addition, implementing the proposed plan would beneficially impact the area along the stream channel. Rehabilitation of the greenway along Felgars Run would improve general biological conditions of the riparian zone.

The project site is not within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. Therefore, potential hazards from flooding would be minimal.

**Wildlife and Aquatic Life.** Potential impacts to wildlife would include habitat loss, short-term degradation of habitat due to construction activities, and direct loss or displacement of wildlife. Two acres of habitat would be permanently lost to the realignment of West Overton Road and construction of the trail and parking lot. However, much of the habitat is of poor quality, and the loss would be very limited. Habitat loss would not have a discernible effect on local wildlife populations.

Degradation of habitat would occur on a temporary basis, and wildlife would be displaced during the construction period. However, much of the habitat is already disturbed, and displaced wildlife would be expected to reoccupy the affected habitats following construction. In addition, the proposed greenway rehabilitation along Felgars Run would improve wildlife habitat along the stream corridor.

As visitation to West Overton increases, there may be an increase in direct loss of wildlife from animal-vehicle collisions. Losses would probably be relatively small and would not affect local wildlife populations.

Construction of the sewer line would impact the aquatic life of Felgars Run and Jacobs Creek. Habitat degradation potentially would occur from direct disturbance to the stream channel and sedimentation. Disturbance to the stream channel would occur only at crossings where trenching is proposed and the locations where the culverts are removed. Local turbidity and suspended solids levels would temporarily increase. The

movement of fish upstream and downstream would be restricted temporarily where the stream is diverted for trenching purposes. However, disturbance to the channel would be short term and minimal in area. Because no known sensitive species inhabit the area, the impact on aquatic life would not be significant. Rehabilitation of the greenway along Felgars Run would have the long-term beneficial impact of improving aquatic habitat.

**Threatened and Endangered Species.**

The only threatened or endangered species or species of special concern known to live in the project vicinity is the upland sandpiper, which has been recorded about 3.3 miles from the project site. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has concluded that there is no record of this species close enough to West Overton to be impacted by the proposed project (see appendix N).

**Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment**

**Land Use.** Impacts of the proposed plan on land use in the area would be relatively minor. Construction activities during realignment of West Overton Road would result in temporary inconveniences to adjacent landowners, including an increase in noise and traffic and possible delays from construction activities. Similar impacts would occur to a lesser degree during work on the parking lot, trail, and sewer line and during rehabilitation of buildings. However, these impacts are short term and would not interfere with current land uses on adjacent lands.

A long-term impact would be the change in land use from agricultural use to roadway. The affected area is narrow, relatively few acres would be lost to the

roadway, and several other highways traverse the area. Therefore, the impacts of realigning West Overton Road would not be significant.

Adjacent land uses might be affected by secondary development outside of the project area. This development might include restaurants, motels, and retail and transportation service industries.

East Huntingdon Township has not enacted zoning laws, and Westmoreland County does not have a comprehensive development plan. Implementation of the proposed alternative would have no impact on land use plans or regulations. However, the acquisition of land within the historic village and the acquisition of scenic easements would conserve the historic scene and pastoral setting.

**Recreation.** Implementing the proposed plan would provide a link to other area recreation facilities. Construction of a pedestrian trail along Felgars Run would result in an increase of visitors to park facilities in Scottdale, to a planned trail along Jacobs Creek, and to the Youghiogeny River trail.

An increase in visitors to the project site would probably result in higher demands for recreational experiences at other facilities in the vicinity. Recreation use generated by visitors to West Overton would be expected to be distributed among various facilities that have the capability to handle increased demand. Most state parks and other facilities in the area have excess capacity during peak visitation periods and could accommodate additional visitors. Therefore, no significant impacts on recreational opportunities or reductions in quality of visitor experience at area sites are anticipated.

**Socioeconomics.** The development associated with the proposed plan might

create a short-term increase in employment opportunities in the construction work force. This increase might have a slight beneficial impacts on local business and government revenues.

Businesses in surrounding local communities are expected to experience long-term economic benefits from increased revenues as a result of a greater number of visitors to the area. Specifically, the Chelsea Terrace restaurant adjacent to West Overton and other restaurants in Scottdale and Mt. Pleasant would likely benefit from increased visitation. Transportation services in the surrounding area and lodging facilities in Greensburg also should experience a greater demand.

Additional employment opportunities for the museum staff would be created to handle an increase in visitors. New jobs also would be created in West Overton with the establishment of new businesses to provide visitor services or other commercial activities. Employment opportunities in the surrounding community also might be created through area businesses benefitting indirectly from visitor expenditures.

Some adjacent landowners might have the opportunity to benefit financially from implementation of the project through the outright acquisition of their properties or through the purchase of scenic easements by West Overton Museums.

Residents of adjacent properties that might be purchased would be inconvenienced by having to relocate. However, comparably priced housing is readily available in the area.

Some lifestyle and social changes might result from an influx of people in the region, particularly with respect to adjacent landowners. Potential impacts might

include a loss of privacy and possible trespass by visitors. Higher traffic levels would mean an increase in noise levels and possibly some minor traffic congestion at the entrance to the village, particularly during special events. Local and area residents might experience inconveniences such as increased competition for services in the community; however, in context with the predicted increase in visitation and the current availability of services, the magnitude of these changes would be minor.

**Transportation.** A minor temporary increase in vehicular traffic would occur as a result of construction activities. During construction and realignment of West Overton Road, delays in traffic flow might occur along S.R. 819 and the old section of West Overton Road because of the movement of construction vehicles.

The anticipated increase in visitation projected with restoration and upgrading of facilities would generate additional traffic on surrounding highways. Visitor-related traffic would be sporadic, with peak times on weekends and during special events. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has indicated the area's transportation system has sufficient excess capacity to handle the increased volume without substantial adverse effects on service.

Locally, the proposed project would have beneficial impacts resulting from eliminating three dangerous intersections. Entering and exiting West Overton Road onto S.R. 819 would be improved with a 90° intersection. The closure of Frick Avenue to through traffic would eliminate the hazards associated with the intersections with S.R. 819 and with West Overton Road.

Planned parking facilities with 25 spaces would be adequate for weekdays and

weekends with lighter visitation. Overflow parking areas would be needed for special events and heavier weekend visitation. Until the proposed parking lot expansion is implemented, parking availability likely would be limited during peak visitation. Once the 22-space parking lot expansion is completed, parking facilities would be adequate except during special events.

### **Impacts on Visual Resources/Aesthetics**

Construction activities would have short-term adverse impacts on the visual resources at the project site under the proposed plan. Realignment of West Overton Road and parking lot construction would involve adverse effects including moving earth, clearing vegetation, and dust emissions. However, the site has been modified by agricultural and urban development, and revegetation would take place promptly after construction. Consequently, no significant adverse effects are anticipated as a result of implementing the proposed plan.

A prominent goal of the proposed plan is improving the visual quality of the site and surrounding area consistent with the historic scene. The proposed plan would have beneficial long-term impacts on the visual resources of the site because historic structures would be restored and modern intrusive structures would be removed. Vegetative screening would serve as a partial barrier against sights and sounds from S.R. 819 and the realigned West Overton Road. Constructing the parking lot into the hillside and additional mounding would minimize its visibility from the village. Eliminating local traffic through the village and conserving the existing pastoral setting would enhance the historic setting and atmosphere of the village.

## **Impacts on Visitor Experience**

Implementation of this proposal would curtail some activities previously enjoyed by visitors.

Relocating the West Overton Road and its intersection with S.R. 819 would require local residents to change their customary traffic patterns. Also, unrestricted vehicular traffic through the village would be eliminated. Limiting vehicles to maintenance operations and conveyance for visitors with disabilities might inconvenience visitors who prefer to see West Overton from their automobiles. However, this proposal would make travel easier for commuters traveling through the village, improve visitor safety by eliminating the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents, and allow historic street restoration to enhance the cultural experience for visitors and residents.

The proposed parking lot location would increase the distance visitors must walk to participate in interpretive activities. (Currently, visitors park adjacent to the Overholt homestead and distillery.) Although the proposed location might be less convenient, it would reduce congestion, improve pedestrian safety, and provide a more aesthetic scene by placing parking on the fringe of primary visitor use areas.

New and modified facilities and programs would provide access to areas never before available to the public and would greatly improve interpretation and passive recreational activities throughout the village. Interior access to several structures would open a whole new series of visitor experiences throughout the village.

Offsite distribution of brochures and a travelers information station near the

village would inform visitors about West Overton and its regional setting. These facilities set the stage for village experiences, helping visitors maximize the quality of their onsite experience.

Enhanced interpretive facilities in the distillery would focus on the village's primary themes, limiting the current museum's universal scope. The improved exhibit space would include general exhibits interpreting West Overton's significance and provide orientation to the site's primary themes. Other exhibits interpreting milling, distilling, and related industries would enhance visitor understanding of the distillery's functions that are no longer illustrated by original fabric and equipment.

Some visitors who previously enjoyed the site as a general history museum might be disappointed that the collection and exhibits now focus on fewer stories.

Support facilities would enhance visitor experiences. Convenient parking, barrier-free walks, trails, and restrooms, efficient orientation, and retail developments would make visits more pleasant. The variety of facilities and programs would allow visitors to enjoy the site's diverse resources and attractions at the pace and level of involvement they choose.

New facilities and programs would significantly increase visitation to the site. Local visitors might object to increased traffic on access roads and the increasing number of visitors the village would attract. There would be more competition for Abraham Overholt house tours and special events. Waiting time for participation in specific activities might be extended. However, the variety of activities available would provide attractive and interesting alternatives.

Conclusion: Most activities previously enjoyed by visitors would still be available after implementation of this proposed plan. Additionally, the expanded scope of interpretive and commercial facilities would increase opportunities for all visitors to learn about and enjoy the village's many natural and cultural resources.

There would be no significant cumulative impact on visitor experiences as a result of this proposal.

### **Impacts on Public Health and Safety**

No hazardous materials have been definitely identified. If identified during the level 1 survey and further analysis, hazardous materials would be addressed according to applicable local, state, and federal regulations and concerns for public health and safety. With required mitigation measures, there would be no significant impacts anticipated from exposure to hazardous materials.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	Few adverse impacts on historic properties. Interpretation of A. Overholt house would continue, but restoration would not be likely. West Overton Museums would continue maintaining their properties but probably would not acquire other properties, which would continue to deteriorate.	Minimal adverse impacts on historic structures; some would be improved through preservation/rehabilitation and maintenance. Re-creating the village scene would be a positive overall impact.
<b>IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	No overall impacts.	Overall effects would be minimal. Most natural resources in the project area have already been disturbed.
<b>Topography/Soils/Prime and Unique Farmland</b>	No impacts.	<b>Topography:</b> Minimal impacts on topography for road realignment and parking lot. <b>Soils:</b> Activities for realigning road, constructing historic road grid, removing culverts, and installing the tunnel, historic bridge, sewer line, underground utility lines, parking lot, and pedestrian/bike trail would affect about 10.7 acres of disturbed land, and some additional land would be disturbed for vegetation screens and restoring the orchards and gardens. However, there would only be permanent impacts on about 3.2 acres — a relatively small area. Soil erosion and sedimentation plans would be implemented to minimize loss, and immediate reseeding would also help mitigate loss. <b>Prime and Unique Farmland:</b> Only 2 acres of farmland that is considered important to the state would be converted for road realignment — creating no appreciable effect on area agricultural productivity.
<b>Air Quality</b>	No impacts.	Short-term minimal impacts during construction activities from dust and emissions. Long-term increase (probably intermittent) in vehicle emissions from more visitors coming to the site; however, no significant long-term impacts to air quality are expected.
<b>Water Quality/Resources</b>	No impacts.	Short-term, temporary degradation of surface water quality caused by removing culverts and constructing sewer line. Long-term but not significant impacts of pollutant runoff from parking lot. No impacts on groundwater. Modest increase in water demand and treatment facilities with more visitors; existing facilities adequate to meet expected demand.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS (CONT.)

	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>Vegetation</b>	No losses or degradation of vegetative cover; no impacts.	Minimal, short-term impacts because of removal and crushing of vegetation during construction. Sewer line construction would disturb about 5.5 acres and would involve removing a few trees. Prompt revegetation and erosion control measures would minimize soil loss and facilitate revegetation. Permanent loss of 3.2 acres to paved or compacted surfaces for roads, trail, and parking lot. No known rare or unique vegetation would be affected.. Minimal overall impacts on vegetation.
<b>Wetlands/Floodplains</b>	No impacts.	Minimal impacts (less than .25 acre) on Felgars Run riparian zone from construction of sewer line and utilities. Rehabilitation of greenway would improve biological conditions of riparian zone. Minimal potential hazards from flooding because site is not in 100- or 500-year floodplain.
<b>Wildlife and Aquatic Life</b>	No impacts.	<b>Wildlife:</b> Some habitat loss or displacement and some short-term degradation (temporary) of habitat due to construction. Permanent loss of 2 acres of habitat for road realignment and trail and parking lot construction, but no discernible effect on local wildlife populations. Greenway rehabilitation would improve wildlife habitat along stream corridor. <b>Aquatic Life:</b> Sewer line construction would affect aquatic life of Felgars Run and Jacobs Creek. Some habitat degradation potentially from direct disturbance to stream channel and sedimentation. Temporary increase in local turbidity and suspended solids. However, disturbance to channel would be short term and minimal in area. No significant impact on aquatic life; long-term beneficial impact of improving aquatic habitat along Felgars Run.
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	No threatened or endangered species in area; no impacts.	No threatened or endangered species in area; no impacts.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS (CONT.)

	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>IMPACTS ON SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>Land Use</b>	No impacts on agricultural, residential, or commercial land uses.	Minor impact on land use. Long-term but not significant impact on agricultural land used for new road alignment. Adjacent land uses might be affected by secondary development (motels, restaurants, motels, etc.) outside the project area. Acquisition of scenic easements would conserve historic scene and pastoral setting.
<b>Recreation</b>	No expansion of recreation opportunities.	West Overton would be linked to other area recreation facilities, especially Scottdale and the Youghiogheny River trail. More visitors would probably mean higher demands for recreational experiences at other area facilities; area facilities can accommodate additional visitors. No significant impacts on recreational opportunities or reductions in quality of visitor experience at area sites.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	No change; continued emphasis on agriculture.	Possible minor increases in employment opportunities and local business and government revenues from construction activities. Long-term benefits in and around West Overton from increased employment opportunities for more visitors. Additional employment opportunities for museum staff to accommodate increase in visitors. New jobs created in West Overton and surrounding communities with establishment of new businesses to provide visitor services or other commercial activities. Some property owners might benefit financially from direct acquisition or purchase of scenic easements; they might also be inconvenienced by having to relocate. Some minor lifestyle and social changes (loss of privacy and possible trespass, higher traffic and noise levels, some minor traffic congestion, increased competition for services in community) would probably occur from influx of people into region.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS (CONT.)

	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	THE PROPOSED PLAN
<b>Transportation</b>	No impacts; vehicular-pedestrian conflicts would continue.	Minor temporary increase in vehicular traffic and possible traffic delays because of construction activities. Long-term overall increase (probably sporadic) in traffic because of influx of visitors, but existing system can accommodate increase. Dangerous intersections would be eliminated.
<b>IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES/AESTHETICS</b>	No improvements; intrusive elements would remain.	Short-term adverse impacts from construction activities. Beneficial long-term impacts on historic structures because of restoration of historic setting and removal of intrusive structures.
<b>IMPACTS ON VISITOR EXPERIENCE</b>	No change.	Some activities previously enjoyed by visitors would be curtailed. There would be some changes in local traffic patterns, and vehicular traffic and congestion through the village would be eliminated — an inconvenience for some people but an improvement in visitor/resident safety conditions. Re-creation of historic scene, opening/restoring additional buildings, developing new programs, improving the orientation/interpretive program and exhibits, adding the travelers information station and site publications, convenient parking, and better access for people with disabilities would enhance visitor experience. There would also be more visitors and thus more competition for tours and special events.
<b>IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	No hazardous materials have been definitely identified; under the no-action alternative, any potential hazardous materials would be left in their current condition and location.	No hazardous materials have been identified. If identified during the level 1 survey and further analysis, hazardous materials would be addressed according to applicable local, state, and federal regulations and concerns for public health and safety. With required mitigation measures, there would be no significant impacts anticipated from exposure to hazardous materials.

## COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

A number of federal, state, and local regulations must be addressed to implement the project at West Overton Village. The anticipated relevant regulations and anticipated permits that apply to the project are as follows.

### **SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED (16 USC 470 et seq.)**

The National Park Service is operating under an August 1990 programmatic agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. That agreement provides for periodic consultation with the advisory council and the state historic preservation officer throughout the planning process and allows either party to participate as a full team member.

This environmental assessment will be submitted for formal review to the advisory council and the state historic preservation officer. Their comments will be incorporated in the final document.

### **SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (33 USC 1344) SECTION 10 OF THE RIVERS AND HARBORS ACT OF 1899 (33 USC 401 et seq.)**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues permits for work affecting navigable water and wetlands of the United States. The Corps and the commonwealth issue joint permits for work affecting wetlands and navigable waters in the state. Construction may require a section 404 permit.

### **ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT OF 1968 (42 USC 4151 et seq.); REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (29 USC 701 et seq.); AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

All proposed facilities and programs will be accessible to special populations.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990, "PROTECTION OF WETLANDS"**

Executive Order 11990 requires federal agencies to avoid, where possible, impacts on wetlands. Any permitting required under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and any state requirements for proposed actions would be met.

### **PERMITS**

The commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County, Scottdale Borough, and East Huntingdon Township have permit requirements for design and construction of roads, facilities, and other improvements. All activities would be conducted in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Also, the National Park Service would pursue consultation with the appropriate agencies for various permitting requirements.

Necessary improvements to utilities affecting the site would be designed to meet sanitary and stormwater criteria that are applicable for projects in Pennsylvania. Any other activities related to the utilities would be conducted in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The following is a list of agencies and organizations which were consulted in the preparation of this document.

### FEDERAL AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
WASO, Mining and Minerals  
Branch  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation  
and Enforcement, Program  
Information Development  
Department of Commerce  
Bureau of the Census

### STATE AGENCIES - PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Environmental Resources  
Bureau of Air Quality Control  
Bureau of Community Environmental  
Control  
Bureau of Forestry, Forest Advisory  
Services  
Bureau of State Parks  
Bureau of Water Quality Management  
Department of Labor and Industry  
Bureau of Employment Security  
Department of Transportation  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission  
Division of Fisheries Management  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Chamber of Commerce, Greensburg, PA  
East Huntingdon Township, Alverton, PA  
Fort Ligonier, Ligonier, PA  
Laurel Highlands Inc., Ligonier, PA  
Municipal Water Authority of  
Westmoreland County, Scottdale, PA  
Old Bedford Village, Bedford, PA  
Old Economy Village, Ambridge, PA  
Scottdale Coal and Coke Museum,  
Scottdale, PA  
Somerset Historical Center, Somerset,  
PA  
West Overton Museums, West Overton,  
PA  
Westmoreland and Fayette County  
Municipal Sewage Authority,  
Scottdale, PA  
Westmoreland County Department of  
Planning and Development,  
Greensburg, PA

**APPENDIXES**



## APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

102 STAT. 4618

PUBLIC LAW 100-698—NOV. 19, 1988

Public Law 100-698  
100th Congress

An Act

Nov. 19, 1988  
[H.R. 3313]

To establish in the Department of the Interior the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

16 USC 461 note.

### SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the iron and steelmaking, coal, and transportation industries and the labor of their workers contributed significantly to America's movement westward, allowed for the growth of the Nation's cities, and helped fuel and move its industrial growth and development and establish its standing among nations of the world;

(2) there are only a few recognized historic sites that are devoted to portraying the development and growth of heavy industry and the industrial labor movement in America; and

(3) the 9-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania known as the Allegheny Highlands contain significant examples of iron and steel, coal, and transportation industries, and is a suitable region in which the story of American industrial heritage can be appropriately interpreted to present and future generations.

(b) PURPOSE.—In furtherance of the findings set forth in subsection (a) of this section, it is the purpose of this Act to establish, through a commission representing all concerned levels of government, the means by which the cultural heritage of the 9-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania associated with the three basic industries of iron and steel, coal, and transportation may be recognized, preserved, promoted, interpreted, and made available for the benefit of the public.

16 USC 461 note.

## TITLE I—SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose of this title and to implement, as appropriate, the document which is entitled "Action Plan—America's Industrial Heritage Project" and which is dated August 1987, there is hereby established in the Department of the Interior the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). The Commission shall exercise the responsibilities and authorities herein conferred on the Commission with respect to that region in southwestern Pennsylvania comprising the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset,

and Westmoreland. The Commission shall consist of 21 members, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") as follows:

(1) 2 members appointed from recommendations submitted by the Governor of Pennsylvania of which one shall represent the interests of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and the other shall represent the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs;

(2) 9 members appointed from recommendations submitted by the county commissioners of the Pennsylvania counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland, of which one member shall be appointed from the recommendations of each such county from groups and individuals representing historic preservation, tourism promotion, business and industry and industrial and labor history;

(3) 4 members appointed from recommendations from the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission;

(4) 4 members appointed from recommendations from Laurel Highlands, Inc.;

(5) 2 members appointed by the Secretary from recommendations by the Director of the National Park Service who shall have knowledge and experience in the field of historic preservation; and

(6) the Director of the National Park Service, ex officio, or his delegate.

(b) **APPOINTMENT.**—All members of the Commission shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, except that the terms of the 9 members appointed from recommendations submitted by each county pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall be for 2 years.

(c) **CHAIRMAN.**—The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members. The term of the chairman shall be 2 years.

(d) **TERMS.**—Any member of the Commission appointed for a definite term may serve after the expiration of his term until his successor is appointed. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor was appointed.

(e) **QUORUM.**—A simple majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum.

(f) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at least quarterly or at the call of the chairman or a majority of its members.

(g) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation as such. Members shall be entitled to travel expenses under section 5703, title 5, United States Code, when engaged in Commission business, including per diem in lieu of subsistence in the same manner as persons employed intermittently.

#### SEC. 102. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **STAFF.**—(1) The Commission shall have the power to appoint and fix the compensation of such staff as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

(2) Staff appointed by the Commission—

(A) shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(b) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—Subject to such rules as may be adopted by the Commission, the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates determined by the Commission to be reasonable.

(c) **STAFF OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—(1) Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the Commission's duties.

(2) The Commission may accept the services of personnel detailed from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (and any political subdivision thereof) and may reimburse the commonwealth or political subdivision for those services.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Administrator of the General Services Administration shall provide such administrative support services as the Commission may request, on a reimbursable basis.

#### SEC. 103. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may for the purpose of carrying out this title hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission may deem advisable.

(b) **BYLAWS.**—The Commission may make such bylaws, rules and regulations, consistent with this Act, as it considers necessary to carry out its functions under this title.

(c) **DELEGATION.**—When so authorized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Commission may take any action which the Commission is authorized to take by this section.

(d) **TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUPS.**—The Commission may establish and appoint one or more technical advisory groups to provide technical advice in financing, historic preservation, recreation, tourism, and intergovernmental coordination.

(e) **DONATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commission may seek and accept donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other private entities, and from public entities, for the purpose of carrying out its duties.

(f) **FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.**—The Commission may use its funds to obtain money from any source under any program or law requiring the recipient of such money to make a contribution in order to receive such money.

(g) **MAIL.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and upon the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(h) **OBTAINING PROPERTY.**—(1) The Commission may obtain by purchase, rental, donation, or otherwise, such property, facilities, and services as may be needed to carry out its duties except that the Commission may not acquire any real property or interest in real property otherwise than under paragraph (2).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Commission may acquire real property, or interests in real property, in the Corridor—

(A) by gift or device; or

(B) by purchase from a willing seller with money which was given or bequeathed to the Commission on the condition that

such money would be used to purchase real property, or interests in real property, in the Corridor.

(3) Any real property or interest in real property acquired by the Commission under paragraph (2) shall be conveyed by the Commission to an appropriate public agency, as determined by the Commission. Any such conveyance shall be made—

- (A) as soon as practicable after such acquisition;
- (B) without consideration; and
- (C) on the condition that the real property or interest in real property so conveyed is used for public purposes.

**SEC. 104. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall—

(1) make loans and grants, from funds appropriated for that purpose or from funds donated or otherwise made available to the Commission, for the purpose of conserving and protecting sites, buildings, and objects which are related to the industrial development of the area and which are included or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places;

(2) coordinate activities of Federal, State, and local governments and private businesses and organizations in order to further historic preservation and compatible economic revitalization;

(3) develop guidelines and standards for projects, consistent with standards established by the National Park Service for the preservation of historic properties, including interpretive methods, that will further historic preservation in the region; and

(4) provide advice and assistance in preparation of loan or grant applications to the Commission and applications for loans or grants from other Federal or non-Federal sources in furtherance of the purposes of this title.

Any loan made under this subsection shall be for a term expiring before the date 10 years after the enactment of this Act and shall be subject to such other terms and conditions, including interest, as may be established by the Commission with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Secretary setting forth its expenses and income and the entities to which any loans and grants were made during the year for which the report is made. The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Congress describing the loans, grants, and technical assistance provided under this Act. Such report shall specify the amount, recipient, and purpose of any loan, grant, or technical assistance so provided and shall include an analysis of the adequacy of actions taken during the previous year to preserve, protect, and interpret the significant sites, buildings, and objects within the area; as well as the anticipated funds and personnel to be made available by the Secretary during the next fiscal year to implement the provisions of this Act.

(c) **COST ESTIMATES.**—Prior to making any grant or loan the Commission shall require detailed cost estimates to be prepared for the project to be funded. Within one year from the date of enactment, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress detailed cost estimates for the projects identified in the action plan referred to in section 101 of this title.

(d) **STUDY REPORT.**—The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, the Pittsburgh Area Steel Industry Heritage Task Force,

Loans.  
Grants.  
Conservation.

102 STAT. 4622

PUBLIC LAW 100-698—NOV. 19, 1988

and other interested parties which represent the greater Allegheny and Washington Counties/Mon-Valley area shall within 2 years of enactment of this Act, submit a report concerning the cultural and historical resource values of the greater Allegheny and Washington Counties/Mon-Valley area to the Secretary. Such report shall include an analysis of the methods and means of inventorying, preserving and interpreting the cultural and historical resources of the area, along with recommendations concerning the coordination of activities in the 11 counties represented by the Commission and the Pittsburgh Area Steel Industry Heritage Task Force and other interested parties. The Secretary shall review the report and submit it along with any comments or recommendations that the Secretary may wish to make to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within 180 days after receipt of such report from the Commission.

(e) EXPIRATION.—The Commission established pursuant to this title shall cease to exist 10 years from the date of enactment of this Act. Any property or funds of the Commission remaining upon the expiration of the Commission shall be transferred by the Commission to the United States, to a State or local government agency, to a private nonprofit organization exempt from income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or to any combination of the foregoing.

#### SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to the Commission to carry out the purposes of this title. Funds may be made available pursuant to this section only to the extent they are matched by equivalent funds from non-Federal sources.

16 USC 1244  
note.

## TITLE II—SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ROUTE

#### SEC. 201. DESIGNATION OF ROUTE.

Federal  
Register,  
publication.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In order to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, and enjoyment of certain nationally and regionally significant sites in southwestern Pennsylvania which are accessible by public road, the Secretary of Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary"), with the concurrence of the agency having jurisdiction over such roads, shall designate, by publication of a description thereof in the Federal Register, a vehicular tour route along existing public roads linking historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational sites in southwestern Pennsylvania. Such route shall be known as the Southwestern Pennsylvania Industrial Heritage Route (hereinafter referred to as the "route"), and shall be marked with an appropriate marker to guide members of the visiting public. With the concurrence of the State or local entity having jurisdiction over such roads so designated, the Secretary may erect thereon signs and other informational devices displaying the Southwestern Pennsylvania Industrial Heritage Route marker. The Secretary is authorized to accept the donation of signs and other informational devices for placement at appropriate locations along the route.

Gifts and  
property.

(b) **INITIAL ROUTE.**—The route as initially designated shall include public roads linking Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Johnstown Flood National Memorial, Historic Saltsburg, Eliza and Mt. Etna Furnaces, the Charles Schwab Estate, Friendship Hill National Historic Site, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Altoona Railroad Shops, Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum, Cambria Iron Works, Johnstown Inclined Plane, Johnstown Flood Museum, Conemaugh Gap, East Broadtop Railroad National Historic Landmark, Gallitzin Tunnels, Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark, Fort Ligonier, Bushy Run Battlefield, Seldom Seen Valley Mine, and Somerset Historical Center.

(c) **ADDITIONAL SEGMENTS.**—The Secretary may, in the manner set forth in section 201 of this title, designate additional segments of the route from time to time as appropriate to link the sites referred to in subsection (b) with other historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational sites when such sites are designated and protected by Federal, State and local governments, Indian tribes, or nonprofit entities.

**SEC. 202. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

With respect to sites linked by segments of the route which are administered by other Federal, State, local, tribal, or nonprofit entities, the Secretary may, pursuant to cooperative agreements with such entities, provide technical assistance in the development of interpretive devices and materials in order to contribute to public appreciation of the historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational sites along the route.

**SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$150,000 to the Secretary to carry out the purposes of this title. No funds made available under this title shall be used for the operation, maintenance, or repair of any road or related structure.

Approved November 19, 1988.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H. R. 3313:**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-789 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-533 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

July 26, considered and passed House.

Oct. 21, considered and passed Senate, amended. House concurred in Senate amendments.

**APPENDIX B: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT CA4000-1-0017  
BETWEEN  
THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
AND  
WESTMORELAND-FAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**ARTICLE I. Background and Objectives**

WHEREAS Public Law 100-698 has established within the Department of the Interior the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission (hereinafter referred to as Commission) for commemorating the labor and social history of America's Industrial Heritage in iron and steel-making, coal mining, and the development of transportation; and

WHEREAS Public Law 100-698 Section 104(a)(1) authorizes the COMMISSION to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the aforementioned purpose; and

WHEREAS Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society (hereinafter referred to as Society) is a private, non-profit organization which manages National Register properties pertaining significantly to the industrial development of Southwestern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS all of the sites and structures were part of Abraham Overholt's company town and distillery operation which is an excellent example of an early company industrial town in western Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS the site known as West Overton is also the birthplace and early home of Henry Clay Frick, a leading Pennsylvania coal industrialist; and

WHEREAS the activities of both organizations would benefit from cooperation in the recordation, interpretation, and promotion of the themes related to the history of West Overton, as well as the recordation, interpretation, and promotion of preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of the sites and structures;

NOW THEREFORE the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission and the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society do hereby enter into this cooperative agreement.

**Article II. Statement of Work**

The Commission agrees to coordinate all of its planning and design efforts with the Society so that the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of historic sites and structures may provide the maximum benefit for the Commission and the Society.

APPENDIXES

The Commission shall review and approve all completed phases of work undertaken under this agreement before subsequent stages can begin.

The Commission shall have the authority to immediately halt an activity if the project specifications are not met or if the General Provisions of the cooperative agreement are not adhered to.

The Commission shall ensure compliance with appropriate statutory requirements.

The Society shall provide coordination of Commission approved projects at the West Overton Site.

The Society shall assure that all deadlines in planning, design and construction are met.

**Article III. Term of Agreement**

The term of this agreement will be a period not to exceed five years from the date of signature of the Commission, Society and National Park Service officials.

**Article IV. Key Officials**

The key officials to this cooperative agreement are:

Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission	Commission Chairman
Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society	President
National Park Service	Chief Contracting Officer, MARO

**Article V. Award**

The amount of payment will be described in detail in sub-agreements for each fiscal year while this master agreement is in effect. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as binding on the National Park Service or the Commission to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by the U.S. Congress or administratively allocated for that fiscal year in furtherance of the subject matter of this agreement or to involve the United States government in any obligations for the future expenditures of funds.

The Commission will make available funds to be paid the Society in a manner outlined in the attached General Provisions and as mutually agreed upon for specific items of work undertaken through this agreement. Funds may be transmitted to the Society by approved Requests for Reimbursement of Funds. Final payment on a specific work item will be made upon acceptance of the final report or product under the scope of work for each fiscal year. The budget for any work item submitted by the Society and agreed to by the Commission becomes part of this agreement and will be followed by the Society. Fringe benefits for full and part-time employees will be included in the expenses. Indirect costs, however, will not be charged to work under this Agreement.

**Article VI. Prior Approval**

The Commission's representative will review and approve all proposals for activities to be conducted under this agreement prior to their inception.

**Article VII. Reports**

Reports and other documents required under this agreement will be submitted to the Commission's representative for review and acceptance.

**Article VIII. Property Utilization and Disposition**

The Society will utilize and dispose of any federal property which is provided by the Service under the requirements of the attached General Provisions which are incorporated herewith by reference.

**Article IX. Termination**

This grant agreement may be terminated by either party with 90 days notice to the other. The federal government may terminate unilaterally the agreement in accordance with Circular A-102/110, General Provisions, Part 14 (attached).

**Article X.**

This agreement is subject to the attached National Park Service General Provisions for Cooperative Agreements which are incorporated herein by reference.

APPENDIXES

SIGNATURES:

Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Heritage Preservation Commission

Jody Bennett 4/26/91  
Commission Chairperson (Date)

Westmoreland-Fayette  
Historical Society

Marie Nadeau 4/26/91  
President (Date)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Susan D. Kutz MAY 24 1991  
Chief, Contracting (Date)  
and Property Management,  
Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS

**APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO WEST OVERTON VILLAGE  
NEWSLETTER SURVEY**

In November 1992 a special edition of West Overton's quarterly newsletter, *The Village Progress*, was distributed to museum members and to readers of two local newspapers, the *Mount Pleasant Journal* and the *Scottsdale Independent Observer*. The newsletter served two purposes: (1) explain to community members the West Overton village restoration project, and (2) solicit ideas and opinions from area residents and board members regarding the proposed project. The newsletter contained an opinion survey form,

and 89 respondents returned the forms. At least 23 responses were from museum members, 42 were nonmembers, and 24 were unknown.

The first three questions asked respondents to choose the two answers most important to them. The questions and responses are presented below. The remaining questions required a subjective response. The questions and a summary of the responses follow.

**1. What do you think are the most unique and important aspects of the village?**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
The village restoration project	71	40
The museums' collections & exhibits	46	26
The Overholt homestead	39	22
The distillery	20	11
Other	3	1

**2. What do you think is the most important story for visitors to learn at West Overton Village?**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
West Overton agriculture and industry	49	34
The Abraham Overholt family and Mennonite history	49	34
Henry Clay Frick/coal and coke	39	27
Other	7	5

**3. In what activities would you be most likely to participate?**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
Special exhibits	38	26
Lecture series	30	21
Classes/demonstrations	28	19
Performing arts	26	18
Volunteer program	19	13
Other	5	3

**4. Do you think the community can benefit from increased activities and visitation at West Overton Village?**

Virtually everyone believed the community would benefit from an increase in activities and visitation. The two primary benefits focused on improvements to the local economy and the education of visitors. Respondents felt that an increase in visitors would have a positive effect on the area's economy with the potential increase in demand for support services such as food and lodging. This increase would potentially create new jobs. An increase in visitation at West Overton would expose more people to the region who would be likely to visit other nearby sites.

Many respondents focused on the educational benefits visitors would receive. Tourists from outside the area would become more knowledgeable about southwestern Pennsylvania. Local residents would have the opportunity to learn more about their heritage and raise their awareness of the community's roots. This would serve to boost the sense of pride in the community. The restoration project at West Overton hopefully would encourage others to preserve and restore historic structures rather than tear them down. One respondent visualized a restored West Overton as a cultural center in the community.

**5. What do you like most about West Overton Village?**

Respondents like the uniqueness of the village, the serenity, the "feel of the village street." They can imagine themselves stepping back in time and visualizing what it would have been like to live there in the 1800s. They believe that it "captures the feeling of western Pennsylvania farm life and industry"; they feel that this part of local history relates to the country's development as a whole.

The architecture and the solidness of the structures are other features that respondents commented on, along with the fact that

the village is still relatively intact. One respondent mentioned there is a feeling of vitality at West Overton. Even though the area around it is somewhat depressed, the village itself seems alive, with its ongoing and exciting restoration. Several respondents like the potential for development at the site, while another appreciates that it has not been "overcommercialized."

The educational potential is one aspect that many respondents appreciate most about West Overton. They believe that visitors receive a historical and cultural educational experience. They feel the village is a good example of America's industrial heritage that should become a part of the curriculum in local schools. Additionally, respondents feel the village is an excellent example of 19th century life. Many who returned the opinion form especially enjoy the interesting exhibits and collections. In particular, they noted the display of agricultural techniques and customs of early inhabitants, the tools and early American Indian displays, and the coke ovens. Other educational aspects that the respondents appreciate are the lectures and heritage plays.

Finally, several respondents commented on the museum staff. They feel the director is knowledgeable and progressive and shows determination in her efforts to run a successful museum. They enjoy the tours conducted by the knowledgeable historian and appreciate the informal, friendly, and enthusiastic atmosphere the staff lends to the museums.

**6. What do you like least about West Overton Village?**

The dislikes of those responding to this question focus on the condition of the surrounding neighborhood and the roads bisecting the village. They feel adjacent properties are a blight on the project and need restoration and cleaning up. The unused structures owned by the museums also are in need of restoration.

The roads through the village are a distraction, and the intersection of Frick

Avenue and West Overton Road, especially, is dangerous. In addition, the main road (S.R. 819) runs too close to the village. One respondent would like to see more signs and directions for visitors. Others mentioned that there should be more parking spaces and easier access, including access for visitors with disabilities.

Some respondents would like more to see in the village, including more rooms open for viewing in the homestead and the museum theater included in the tour. Others would like to see more seasonal festivities, more classes and demonstrations dealing directly with the village's heritage. Other individuals mentioned a lack of "youth group meetings," poor lighting, and inability to tour the top floors of the homestead and distillery.

#### **7. What improvement at West Overton Village would encourage you to visit it over other sites in the area?**

Respondents had a variety of suggestions for improvement. Many would like to see the village restored as a whole, to return it as close as possible to its original condition, and to clean up adjacent properties. Others envision a living history museum with craft displays, demonstrations of trades of the era, and a bakery and restaurant with food items featuring the Mennonite heritage. Shops and a general store were also mentioned as improvements to the village.

Other improvements would involve expanding the lecture series to include southwestern Pennsylvania's industrial history, along with expanded exhibits depicting early life in the village. Implementing special events, festivities, and classes dealing with the area's

heritage would encourage more visitors. One respondent suggested activities related to farming, such as hayrides, horse and buggy rides, and machinery exhibits.

Establishing the village as a regional rather than a local institution would bring in more visitors. Recommendations for generating regional visitation include coordinating activities with other organizations, combining tours with other local historical sites, emphasizing the coke/coal story and relating it to other sites, and including coke ovens on the tour.

Individual respondents suggested adding facilities for picnicking, hiking, and other leisure activities. The addition of library resources and an activity/reading room also would be of interest. Guided tours of the distillery and/or audiotape self-guiding tours, upgraded exhibits and presentation of history in the museum, and a film depicting history of the area would all be improvements. Larger parking lots, longer hours, and minimizing fees also would encourage others to visit.

#### **8. If you have visited West Overton Village before, how many times have you returned and what was the date of your last visit?**

At least 60 respondents have visited the museums more than once. Several began visiting during their childhood, with two respondents having started in the 1930s and one in the 1940s. Only two respondents have never visited. Over half of those responding (55) indicated they have visited in the last three years. Many return every year for the heritage play and/or the quilt show.

## APPENDIX D: VEHICULAR CIRCULATION ANALYSIS

Point 1 Intersection of Frick Ave. with S R. 819 — The intersection is at an acute angle, which makes it difficult for a driver entering S.R. 819 to see high-speed, on-coming traffic.

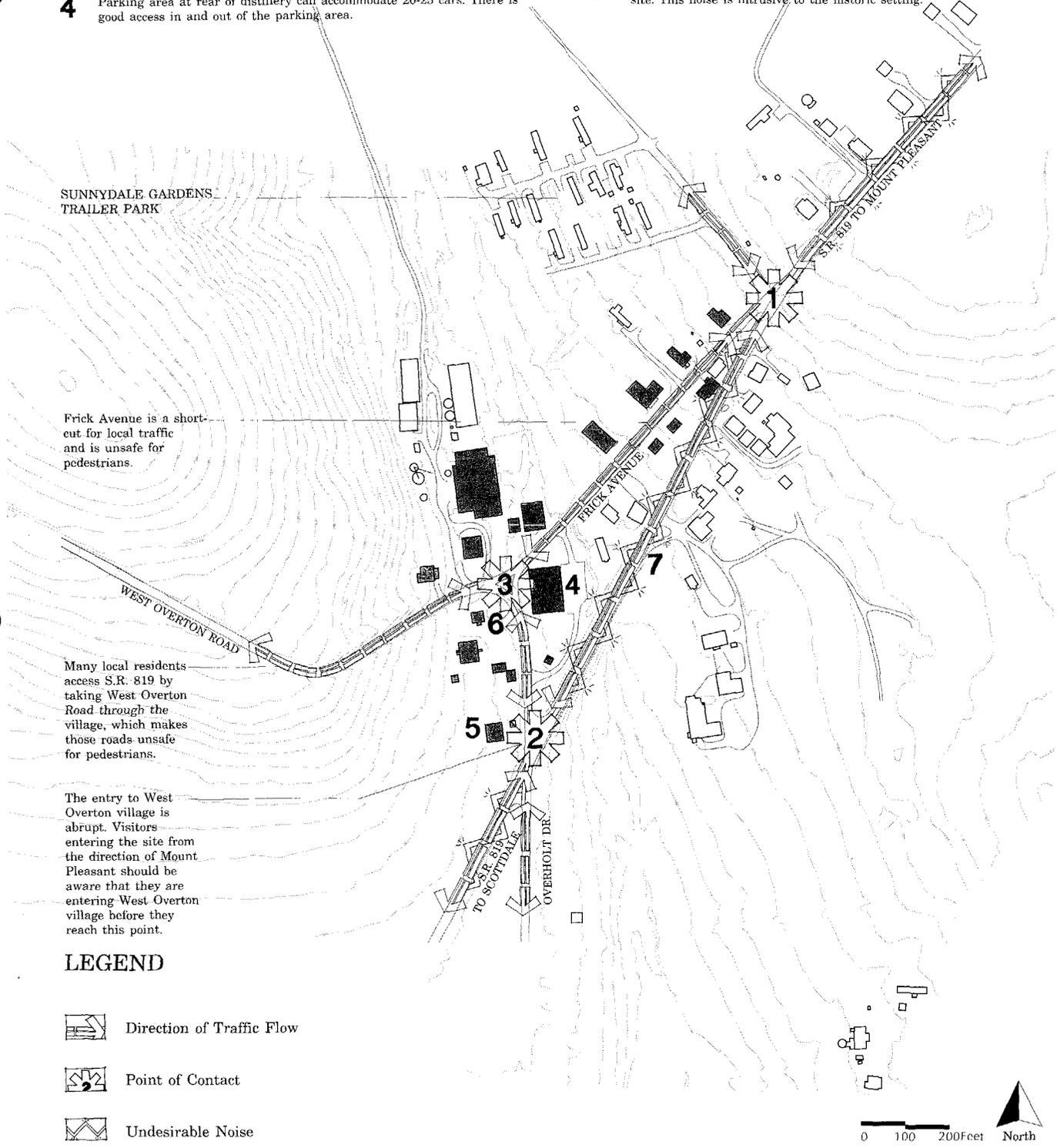
Point 2 Intersection of Overholt Street with S.R. 819 — The limited sight distance at this intersection makes it hazardous.

Point 3 Intersection of Frick Avenue, Overholt Street, and West Overton Road — This is a confusing three-way intersection where local traffic seldom obeys the stop signs. This could be dangerous for visitors unfamiliar with the local traffic patterns.

**NOTES**

- 1&** Conflicts between traffic traveling at high speed to and from Scottdale and traffic entering West Overton. Acute angles and short sight distance make intersections hazardous.
- 2**
- 3** This is a confusing three-way intersection; most local traffic only slows for the stop signs, which could be dangerous for visitors who do not realize this.
- 4** Parking area at rear of distillery can accommodate 20-25 cars. There is good access in and out of the parking area.

- 5** Parking area of brick barn can accommodate 20-30 cars. The parking area consists of an open grass area that is not delineated.
- 6** Parking area at the front of the Overholt house can accommodate 5-6 cars. It is convenient to both homestead and distillery but intrudes on historic character of core area.
- 7** The noise produced by traffic on S.R. 819 is audible throughout the site. This noise is intrusive to the historic setting.



SUNNYDALE GARDENS TRAILER PARK

Frick Avenue is a shortcut for local traffic and is unsafe for pedestrians.

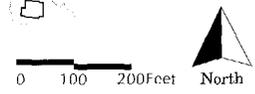
Many local residents access S.R. 819 by taking West Overton Road through the village, which makes those roads unsafe for pedestrians.

The entry to West Overton village is abrupt. Visitors entering the site from the direction of Mount Pleasant should be aware that they are entering West Overton village before they reach this point.

**LEGEND**

- Direction of Traffic Flow
- Point of Contact
- Undesirable Noise
- Historic West Overton Village Structure

**VEHICULAR CIRCULATION**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**  
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
 United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 DSC • 957 • 20062 • JUL 93



**ON MICROFILM**

## APPENDIX E: VISITATION ANALYSIS

West Overton was compared with four regional sites — Old Economy Village, Somerset Historical Center, Fort Ligonier, and Old Bedford Village — to estimate potential visitation. Each site is in the Pittsburgh market area, has similar regional tourism patterns, and is easily accessible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Consideration was also given to the interpretive facilities and programs offered at each facility.

### Old Economy Village

Administered by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Old Economy Village was built in the 19th century by members of a German religious sect, the Harmony Society. The Harmonists believed in celibacy, and the sect eventually died out in the early 1900s. Restoration of the site began in the 1940s, with major restoration taking place in the 1960s. The present village consists of 17 structures on a 6-acre site in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

The site interprets various aspects of how the Harmony Society prospered in agriculture, textile manufacturing, and industrial investments. Over 16,000 original artifacts are displayed in period exhibits in the historic buildings. Special events include craft festivals and demonstrations of 19th century life. Thematic educational tours are offered for children of all ages. The village is about 18 miles northwest of downtown Pittsburgh, convenient to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-79.

### Somerset Historical Center

Settlement of the area around Somerset began in the 1760s, but the area remained relatively isolated from the east for several decades because of the difficulty in crossing the Alleghenies. Consequently, many of the necessities of life were made by hand at home. Because of the relatively primitive

farming techniques used, there was very little surplus. Excess products were bartered rather than marketed.

Advancements in farming practices such as crop rotation and fertilization were made in the 1800s, and the farmers' crop yields greatly increased. Later, the introduction of mechanized equipment made work easier and permitted farmers to cultivate more acreage and produce greater surplus. Products were taken to market by rail and over improved roads.

The Somerset Historical Center tells the story of how farming in southwestern Pennsylvania advanced over a period of nearly 200 years. Also a part of the story is the change from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture and the profound effect it had on peoples' lives. The center presents special events such as Mountain Craft Days when many authentic traditional crafts are demonstrated. The center is establishing various farmsteads to demonstrate the progression of farming in western Pennsylvania during the 1790s, 1850s, and 1920s. Somerset Historical Center is approximately 60 miles from Pittsburgh and is accessible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike and U.S. Highway 30.

### Fort Ligonier

Fort Ligonier served as the staging area for British General John Forbes in his attack against Fort Duquesne in 1758. His troops succeeded in driving the French out of this military stronghold, which later became Fort Pitt. The military road he cut became a well-traveled highway, and the present-day U.S. 30 follows approximately the same course.

In 1758 Fort Ligonier withstood an attack by the French and Indians and also withstood a siege in 1763 during Pontiac's Rebellion. The fort was abandoned in 1763 after the Indian Wars and was in a state of decay by the time of the Revolution.

An onsite full-scale reconstruction of the original fort was begun in 1954. Interpretive programs include a summer day camp for children, archeological digs, folkcrafts, and living history activities such as reenactments, battles, and encampments. Fort Ligonier is 50 miles east of Pittsburgh on U.S. 30, 12 miles north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

**Old Bedford Village**

Old Bedford Village re-creates the world of pioneer America. On 72 acres, over 40 original log homes and craft shops interpret the pioneer lifestyles of the 1790s from the area surrounding the town of Bedford. The structures in the village include schoolhouses, craft shops (with over 14 indigenous crafts represented), and a working colonial farm.

Twelve special events are held during the year, and the village opera house presents several productions each season. Old Bedford Village is about 97 miles from Pittsburgh along the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Based on visitation figures at the four comparison sites, 30,000 visitors a year (a conservative estimate) would be anticipated after completion of the proposed project. If West Overton village follows trends at the four comparison facilities, 25%–33% of the visitors would come during special events.

Currently, approximately 43% of the visitors to West Overton reside in Westmoreland County. Expanded marketing through West Overton's partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission and Laurel Highlands would probably help increase visitation figures.

TABLE E-1. CHARACTERISTICS OF OTHER NEARBY SITES

FACILITY AND LOCATION	ANNUAL VISITATION	SEASON	INTERPRETATION	OTHER VISITOR ACTIVITIES
Old Economy Village — Ambridge, PA	33,000 in 1991	Open year-round	Guided tours, film, and demonstrations; tour takes 1½ hours	Special events, festivals, and educational programs for children
Somerset Historical Center — Somerset, PA	Ranged from 36,500 in 1990 to 24,500 in 1992	Open year-round	Guided tours and audiovisual programs; tour takes 1½ hours	Special events, crafts, and casual and hands-on demonstrations
Fort Ligonier — Ligonier, PA	Average was 40,000 for 1989–92	May 1 to Oct. 31	Self-guided tours, film, and displays; tour takes 1½–2 hours	Reenactments, battles, folkcrafts, archeological digs, and summer camp for children
Old Bedford Village — Bedford, PA	Average is 125,000 per year	May 1 to Oct. 31	Guides in each building and orientation film; tour takes 1½–2 hours	Twelve special events each year

## APPENDIX F: ARCHEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The archeological program at West Overton has been divided into two stages. The first stage consists of documentary background research and the production of a narrative report. The report will focus on the physical history of the site. Historic structures or features (wells, privies, etc.) known or suspected to have existed on the site will be discussed, as well as their location, function, and the dates of construction, alteration, and/or demolition. The research report will be accompanied by a series of historic base maps compiled from cartographic resources. The maps will indicate the location of existing cultural resources and the suspected location of those below ground.

To date, the only archeological investigation conducted in the project area involved a draft archeological overview prepared in conjunction with the 1990 NPS Historic American

Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) survey of West Overton Village. The overview combined the historical information provided by the HABS/HAER survey with several days of onsite field observations. No archeological testing, other than surface inspection, was conducted.

The second stage will consist of archeological subsurface testing in selected areas of the village to help verify the accuracy and completeness of the documentary record and of the archeological base maps derived from it. This initial archeological investigation will only provide preliminary information on the nature, extent, and conditions of subsurface resources. As future design plans develop, more detailed archeological investigations will be conducted.

## APPENDIX G: SOIL AND PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS ANALYSES

### SOIL ANALYSIS

Five soil series comprise the West Overton site: Wharton, Atkins, Ernest, and Cavode silt loams and strip mine spoil (see Soils map).

The Wharton soil series underlies the A. Overholt house, springhouse, summer kitchen, carriage house, smokehouse, worker houses A, B, and C, most of the structures on the Overton stock farm, and agricultural land south of the village. This soil consists of deep, moderately well-drained, slowly permeable soils on benches and drainage divides. The smooth, concave slopes are cut by numerous drainageways, and available moisture capacity is moderate to high. The potential for erosion and a seasonal high-water table are limitations to construction.

The Atkins series consists of deep, level or nearly level, poorly drained, medium-textured soils on floodplains. These soils occupy depressions and flat areas where surface water, flood water, and seepage water accumulate. This is the soil series occupying the stream channel of Felgars Run. The water table is near the surface in spring, in fall, and during wet periods. Permeability is moderate above the water table, and available moisture capacity is high. Atkins soils are classified as hydric soils in Westmoreland County by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Wetness is the major limitation for construction on Atkins soils.

Underlying the distillery and the Henry S. Overholt house is the Ernest series, which consists of deep, moderately well-drained, medium-textured soils. These soils can be found on smooth, generally concave slopes where rock and soil accumulates along drainageways and streams to form benches and fans. Permeability is moderately slow, and the available moisture capacity is moderate. The potential for erosion is a limitation for construction on this soil.

The Cavode series underlies the C.S. Overholt house/store, worker houses D and F, the stable, the small building east of the stable, and a portion of farmland southwest of the village. This series consists of deep, somewhat poorly drained, medium-textured soils on uplands. Permeability is slow, and available moisture capacity is moderate to high. Wetness is the major limitation for construction on these soils, and there is a potential for erosion.

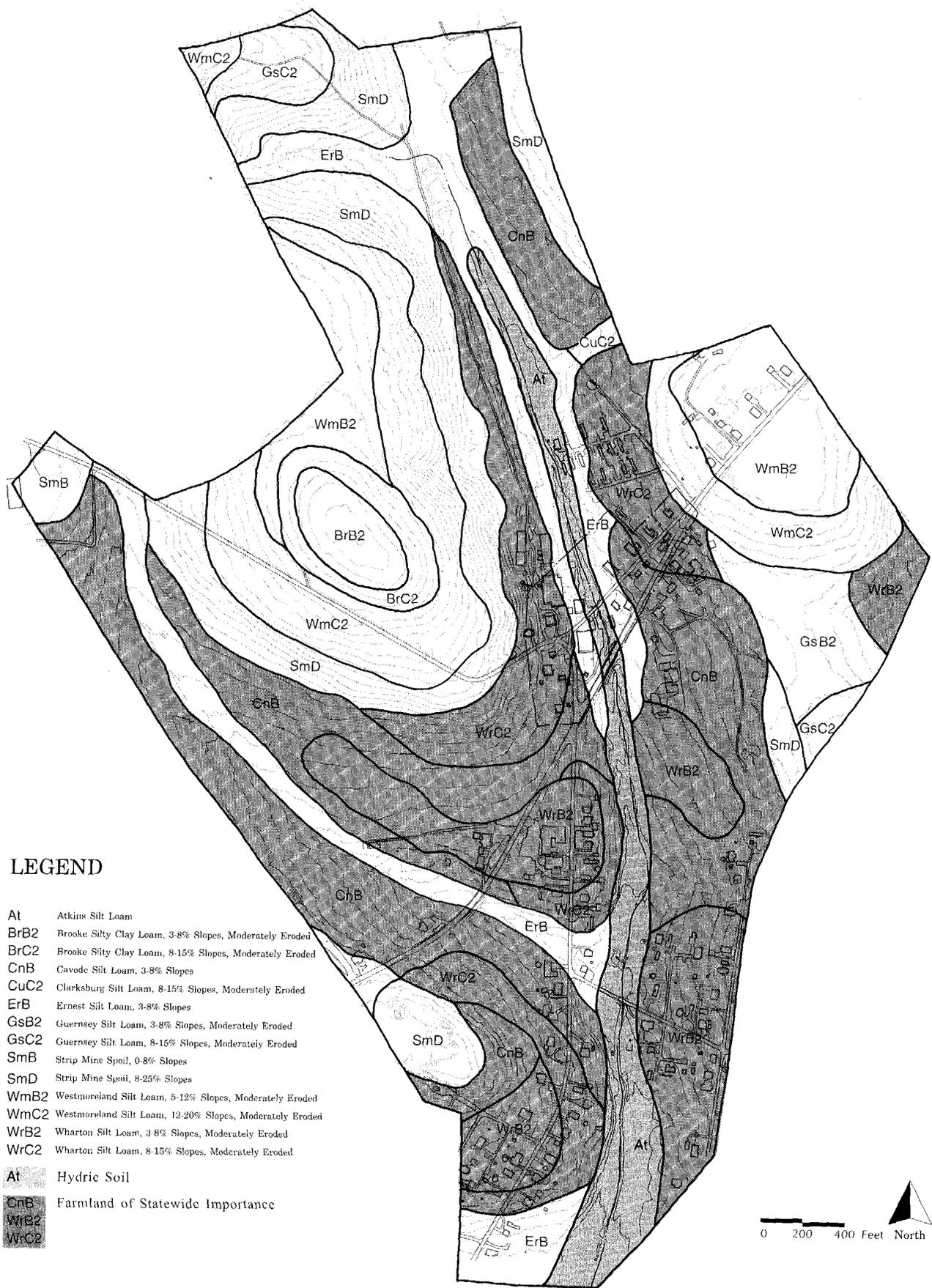
The strip mine spoil series consists of soil that has been disturbed by coal mining operations. The gradient ranges from gently sloping to very steep, and surface texture ranges from clay loam to coarse textures, sometimes with fragments the size of boulders. Chemical properties vary widely from extremely acidic to neutral. Permeability ranges from moderate to slow, and the available moisture capacity is low. Difficulty in cultivating the land and acidity are the main limitations. Typically occurring on benches and back slopes, this series underlies the area at the base of the hill west of the village.

Overall, development limitations at this site are the high or seasonally high water table and the steep slopes (see following table).

Four additional soil series comprise outlying areas of the site that may be developed in the future: Brooke, Westmoreland, Guernsey, and Clarksburg. The primary limitations for these soils are erosion and a seasonally high water table.

### PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLAND ANALYSIS

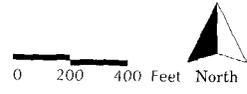
In August 1980 the Council on Environmental Quality directed that federal agencies assess the effects of their actions on soils classified by the Soil Conservation Service as prime or unique farmland. Prime or unique farmland is defined as soil that is particularly suited for growing general or specialty



**LEGEND**

- At Atkins Silt Loam
- BrB2 Brooke Silty Clay Loam, 3-8% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- BrC2 Brooke Silty Clay Loam, 8-15% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- CnB Cavode Silt Loam, 3-8% Slopes
- CuC2 Clarksburg Silt Loam, 8-15% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- ErB Ernest Silt Loam, 3-8% Slopes
- GsB2 Guernsey Silt Loam, 3-8% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- GsC2 Guernsey Silt Loam, 8-15% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- SmB Strip Mine Spoil, 0-8% Slopes
- SmD Strip Mine Spoil, 8-25% Slopes
- WmB2 Westmoreland Silt Loam, 5-12% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- WmC2 Westmoreland Silt Loam, 12-20% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- WrB2 Wharton Silt Loam, 3-8% Slopes, Moderately Eroded
- WrC2 Wharton Silt Loam, 8-15% Slopes, Moderately Eroded

- At Hydric Soil
- CnB Farmland of Statewide Importance
- WrB2
- WrC2



**SOILS**

**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service

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Appendix G: Soil and Prime and Unique Farmlands Analyses

crops. Prime farmland produces general crops such as common foods, forage, fiber, and oilseed; unique farmland produces specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts.

Two soils in the project area are classified as farmland of statewide importance. They are

the Cavode silt loam, 3%–8% slopes, and the Wharton silt loam, 8%–15% percent slopes. Wharton silt loam, 3%–8% slopes, moderately eroded, is classified as prime farmland and is found south of West Overton (see previous Soils map).

TABLE G-1: DEVELOPMENT LIMITATIONS OF SOILS ASSOCIATED WITH WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

SOIL TYPE	SITES WITH BASEMENTS	STREETS AND PARKING AREAS	LANDSCAPING	PARKS AND PLAY AREAS	SEPTIC TANK FIELDS
Wharton silt loam 8%–15% slopes	Moderate; slope; seasonal high water table	Severe; slope	Moderate; slope	Moderate; slope	Severe; slow permeability; seasonal high water table
Atkins silt loam 0%–3% slopes	Severe; flooding; high water table	Severe; high water table	Severe; high water table	Severe; high water table	Severe; high water table; flooding
Ernest silt loam 3%–8% slopes	Moderate; seasonal high water table	Moderate; slope; seasonal high water table	Slight	Slight	Severe; moderately slow permeability; seasonal high water table
Cavode silt loam 3%–8% percent slopes	Severe; seasonal high water table	Moderate; seasonal high water table; slope	Moderate; seasonal high water table	Moderate; seasonal high water table	Severe; seasonal high water table; slow permeability
Strip mine spoil 8%–25% slopes	Severe; slope	Severe; slope	Severe; slope	Severe; slope	Severe; slope
Wharton silt loam 8%–15% slopes	Moderate; slope; seasonal high water table	Severe; slope	Moderate; slope	Moderate; slope	Severe; slow permeability; seasonal high water table

## APPENDIX H: VISUAL ANALYSIS

The following visual analysis describes the prominent visual elements within the primary visual boundary of West Overton. The primary visual boundary is the area with the most visible detail. This area can be characterized as the foreground found in a painting or photograph. These are areas where the landscape provides needed context for clear interpretation of a historic period.

### VIEWPOINTS AND SCENIC CATEGORIES

The first step was to delineate the primary visual boundary visible from within the village (village viewshed). The resulting mapped area represents this viewshed. Once the village viewshed was established, it was then divided into four scenic categories (see Visual Analysis, Viewpoints and Scenic Categories map).

Category A: Historic Village Core — Few intrusions; structures need restoration but the area has potential for having a high visual quality.

Category B: Farmland — Large expanse of undeveloped agricultural land provides an uncluttered rural setting for the village.

Category C: Trailer Park — Due to its proximity to the historic district, this area is a highly intrusive visual element.

Category D: Residential Areas — These areas are peripheral intrusions.

In addition to these scenic categories, eight viewpoints that highlight important historical components of the village were identified:

1. Good vantage point for viewing the village and surrounding landscape.

2. Picturesque view of the relationship between the homestead and the distillery.
3. Views of the village street from the backyard of the homestead.
4. Pleasant view of the lower village; modern structures across S.R. 819 are also visible.
5. A view of the homestead from the village street; modern structures across S.R. 819 on Overholt Drive are also visible.
6. A view down the village street; modern residences are visible.
7. A view of the open pasture; the trailer park is visible in the background.
8. A view of the historic village street; S.R. 819 and modern structures are also visible.

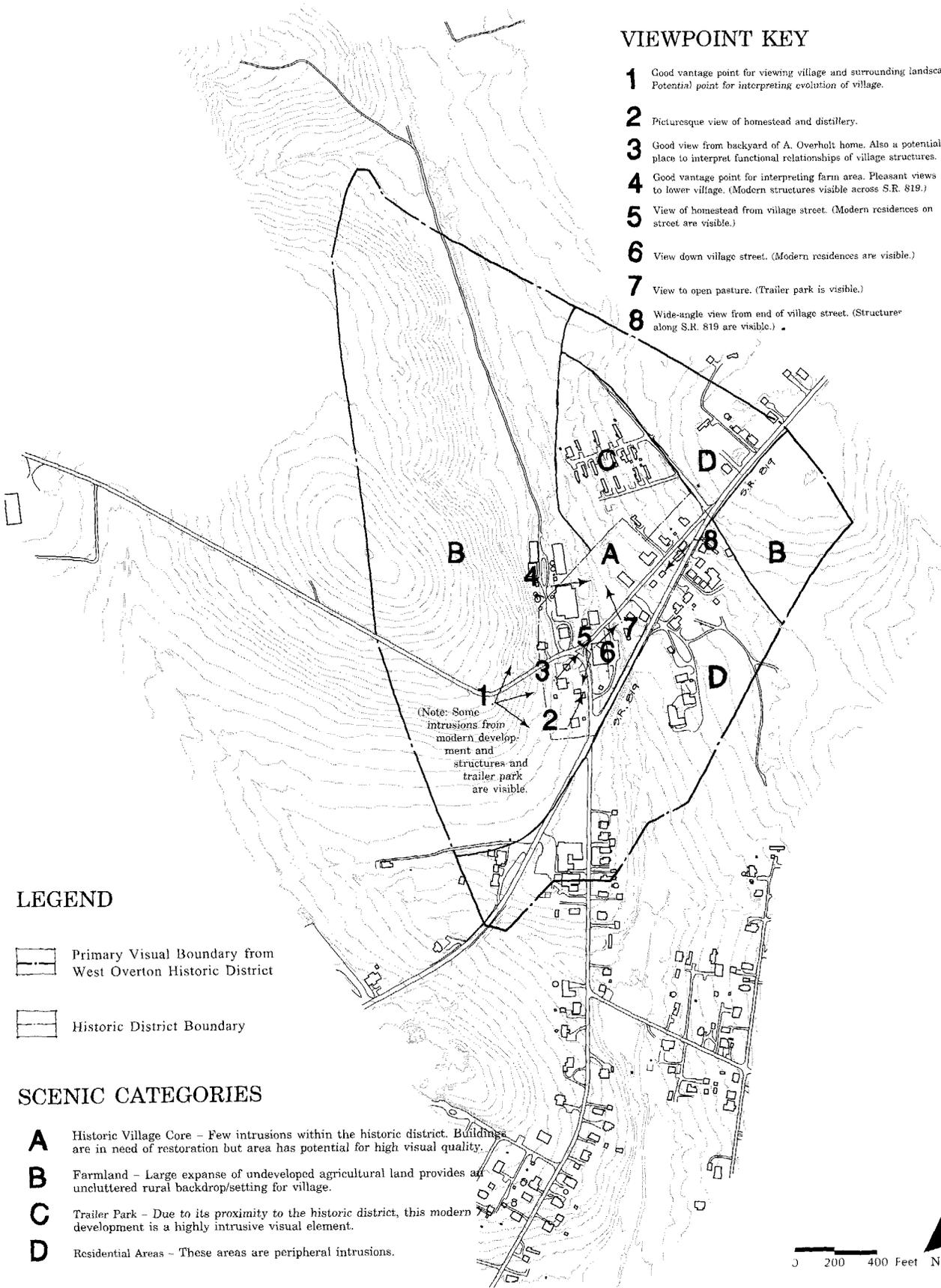
### INTRUSIVE ELEMENTS

Intrusive elements are features in the village that do not contribute to the historic village experience. Three categories have been developed to quantify the level of intrusiveness (see Visual Analysis, Intrusive Elements map).

*Level 1, Primary Intrusions* — These elements are in or adjacent to the historic district, have a direct impact on the historic scene, and detract from the overall historic character. They include the metal pole buildings on the Overton stock farm, a modern residence at 451 Frick Avenue, and overhead power lines. There are also three privately owned historic structures in the village that are visually unappealing and in need of maintenance. The Sunnydale Garden Estates trailer park west of the site is also considered a primary intrusion.

## VIEWPOINT KEY

- 1** Good vantage point for viewing village and surrounding landscape. Potential point for interpreting evolution of village.
- 2** Picturesque view of homestead and distillery.
- 3** Good view from backyard of A. Overholt home. Also a potential place to interpret functional relationships of village structures.
- 4** Good vantage point for interpreting farm area. Pleasant views to lower village. (Modern structures visible across S.R. 819.)
- 5** View of homestead from village street. (Modern residences on street are visible.)
- 6** View down village street. (Modern residences are visible.)
- 7** View to open pasture. (Trailer park is visible.)
- 8** Wide-angle view from end of village street. (Structures along S.R. 819 are visible.)



## LEGEND

 Primary Visual Boundary from West Overton Historic District

 Historic District Boundary

## SCENIC CATEGORIES

- A** Historic Village Core - Few intrusions within the historic district. Buildings are in need of restoration but area has potential for high visual quality.
- B** Farmland - Large expanse of undeveloped agricultural land provides an uncluttered rural backdrop/setting for village.
- C** Trailer Park - Due to its proximity to the historic district, this modern development is a highly intrusive visual element.
- D** Residential Areas - These areas are peripheral intrusions.



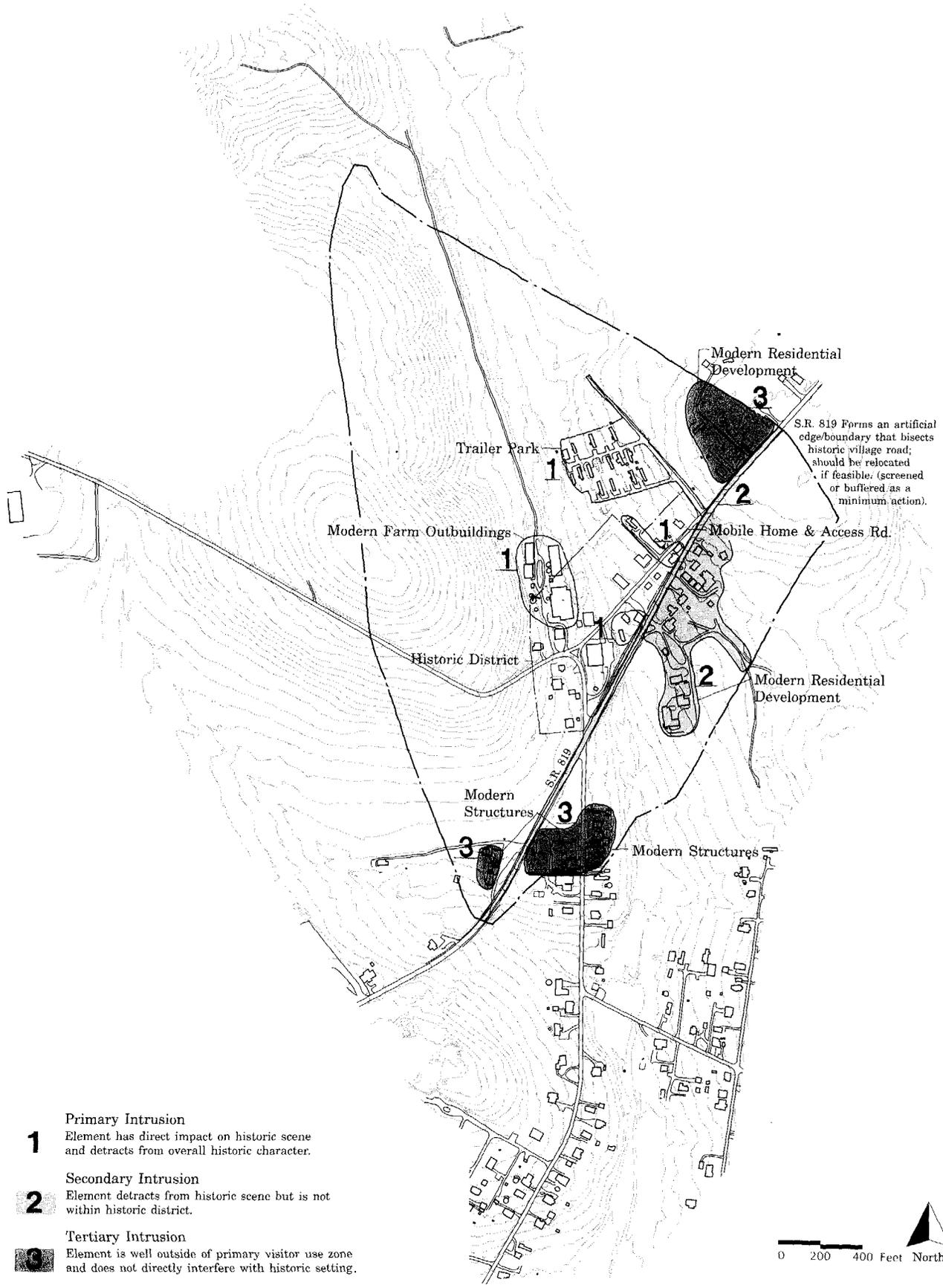
# VISUAL ANALYSIS

## VIEWPOINTS AND SCENIC CATEGORIES

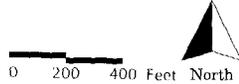
### WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

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- 1** Primary Intrusion  
Element has direct impact on historic scene and detracts from overall historic character.
- 2** Secondary Intrusion  
Element detracts from historic scene but is not within historic district.
- 3** Tertiary Intrusion  
Element is well outside of primary visitor use zone and does not directly interfere with historic setting.



**VISUAL ANALYSIS**  
**INTRUSIVE ELEMENTS**  
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE**  
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*Level 2, Secondary Intrusions* — These are elements that also detract from the historic character of the village but are not in the historic district. These include S.R. 819, which bisects the original village, and the modern residences east of S.R. 819.

*Level 3, Tertiary Intrusions* — These elements are well outside the primary visitor use zone and do not directly interfere with the historic setting, including the modern residences and nursing home south of the village.

## APPENDIX I: VISITOR EXPERIENCE ANALYSIS

### CORE AREA EXPERIENCES

It is anticipated that all visitors will participate in experiences provided in a core (primary) interpretive area. The various zones developed by the planning team are as follows (see Visitor Experience Zones map).

#### Zone 1 Orientation

An orientation facility convenient to the parking area would entice visitors to leave their vehicles to experience what the site has to offer. Here visitors would have access to information about surrounding points of interest, the range of available onsite experiences, restrooms, and directions that ensure an opportunity to optimize the quality of their visit. The orientation facility would provide an origination point for activities and begin to promote an understanding of the interrelationship of natural resources and human history — past, present, and future. Media should stimulate and provoke visitors to seek other onsite experiences.

#### Zone 2 Overholt Homestead

As visitors enter the homestead grounds they should find a sense of the peace and serenity of this manmade environment. In summer, the landscaping should invite them to linger in the soothing environment of cool shaded lawn, trees, gardens, and orchards. Year-round, the imposing home with its cluster of dependencies should offer a feeling of security, confidence, and competence — characteristics of Abraham Overholt's personality. Visitors should sense the economic stability the Overholt family realized from the village's industrial growth.

The homestead chronicles the story of the family that created the village. Here visitors should learn about the patriarchal attitudes, personal characteristics, and family legacy of the major personalities involved in the growth of West Overton. Visitors should

understand the utilitarian creativity of village leaders and the influence of cultural traditions and Mennonite heritage on village activities. Enhancement of existing structures and grounds would create an environment that allows the historic resource to interpret itself with minimal media intervention. A primary visitor experience goal would be to encourage personal contemplation of what happened at this place.

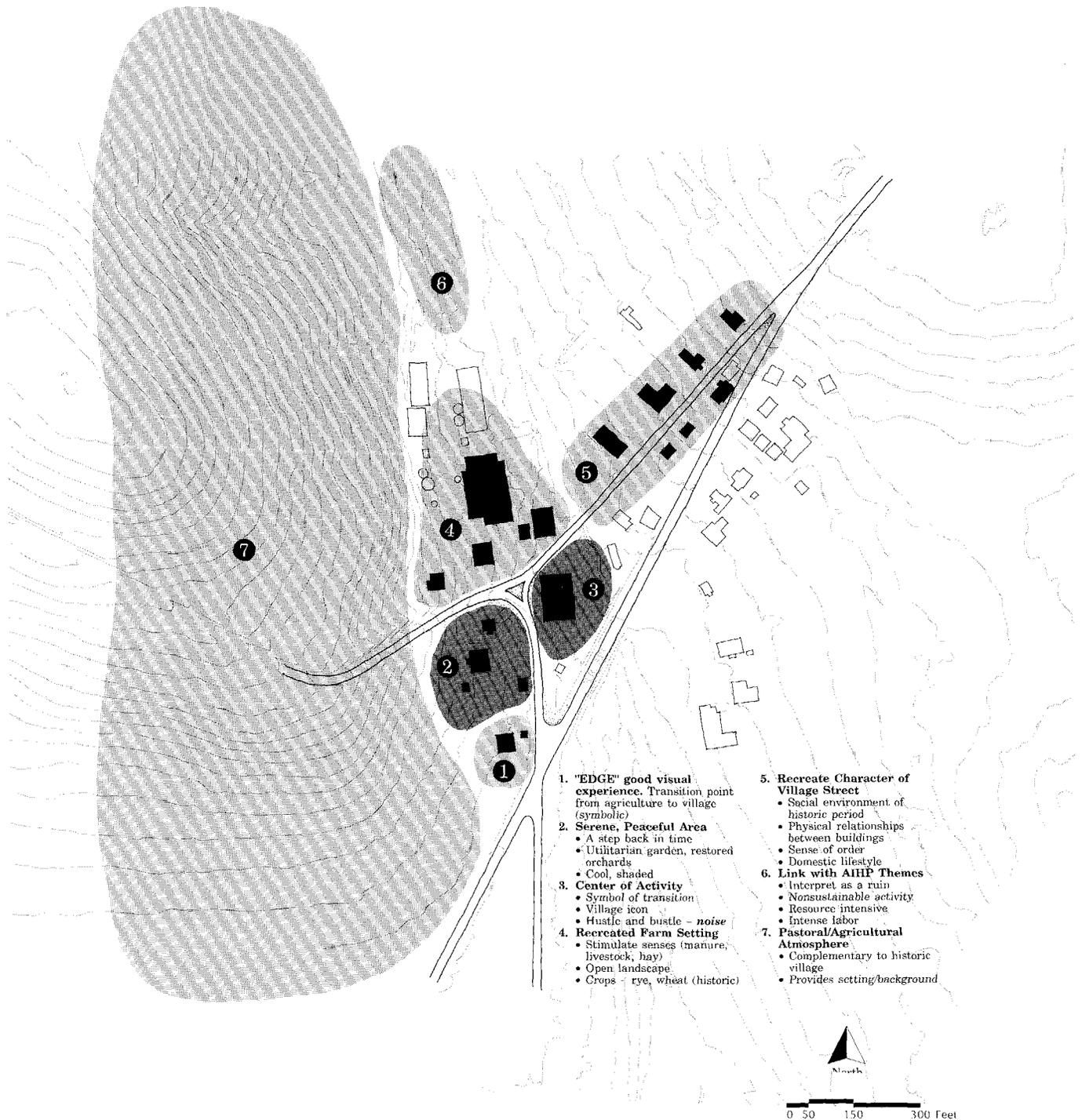
#### Zone 3 Distillery

Village activities revolved around the distillery during most of the area's history. The distillery would remain the focus for visitor activities. Today it is a symbol of the transition from agriculture to industry. Visitor experiences should create the feeling of being in a place of business, manufacturing, and commerce. Noise, smells, and the hustle and bustle of activity would characterize the visitor experience in portions of the building.

The story of distilling/milling and vertical integration would be the main theme interpreted at the distillery. Media could include a film that captures complex issues with realism and emotion, interpretive demonstrations, and high-quality exhibits that blend art, original objects, historic architectural fabric, and interactive visitor contact.

### VILLAGE EXPERIENCE

Opportunities to experience cultural landscapes and structures associated with West Overton would be provided by self-guiding walking tours to the farm, coke oven, mine site, and village residential area. Facilities that encourage visitors to experience the site on foot would enable them to become more intimately involved with the historic lifestyles. Vehicular access would be available for visitors with disabilities.



- 1. "EDGE" good visual experience.** Transition point from agriculture to village (symbolic)
- 2. Serene, Peaceful Area**
  - A step back in time
  - Utilitarian garden, restored orchards
  - Cool, shaded
- 3. Center of Activity**
  - Symbol of transition
  - Village icon
  - Hustle and bustle - noise
- 4. Recreated Farm Setting**
  - Stimulate senses (manure, livestock, hay)
  - Open landscape
  - Crops - rye, wheat (historic)
- 5. Recreate Character of Village Street**
  - Social environment of historic period
  - Physical relationships between buildings
  - Sense of order
  - Domestic lifestyle
- 6. Link with AHP Themes**
  - Interpret as a ruin
  - Nonsustainable activity
  - Resource intensive
  - Intense labor
- 7. Pastoral/Agricultural Atmosphere**
  - Complementary to historic village
  - Provides setting/background

**VISITOR  
EXPERIENCE ZONES**  
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#### **Zone 4 Farm**

Upon leaving the core area, visitors would enter a 19th century Pennsylvania farm. Sights, sounds, and smells, as well as opportunities to touch objects and animals, would create sensory experiences that visitors would remember. Adjacent pastoral landscapes and crop patches of rye and wheat illustrate the agricultural base of the village economy. A minimum of interpretive media would allow buildings, equipment, animal displays, and occasional demonstrations or presentations to create desired visitor experiences.

#### **Zone 5 Residential Area**

A historic village streetscape would encourage visitors to follow the footsteps of former residents to homes across the creek from the distillery. Visitors should see a planned, orderly community.

At worker houses an important part of the village social story would be told — the worker's domestic lifestyles and the social relationship of renters, boarders, and owners. Through a variety of interior and exterior interpretive experiences, visitors should gain an intimate sense of the social fabric of the community and how changes in the developing community impacted village residents. Differences in daily work and social activities among the families of community leaders, craftsmen, and less skilled laborers are important parts of the story.

The expanding Overholt family retaining control of village enterprises and the role of the company store in community life would be interpreted at the H.S. and C.S. Overholt houses. A comparison of worker houses and the Overholts' houses would show different economic levels in the village.

#### **Zone 6 Coke Oven/Coal Mine/Railroad Site**

A trail to the farm perimeter would bring visitors to the ruins of industrial facilities

that introduced significant changes. Here visitors should get a sense of hard labor on an intense, repetitive schedule. The advent of coke production changed the village's social and economic structure forever. The walk from the village, the exposed environment at the oven site, and wayside exhibits should give visitors a sense of the sounds, smoke, heat, and large labor force this industry brought to the community. Here visitors would learn about the labor story, how the village responded to a changing industrial need for coke, the accelerated use of non-renewable resources, and the relationship of village industries to the AIHP steel story.

The return trip from the mine/oven site would follow an abandoned railroad bed that brought rail transportation to West Overton in support of the coal/coke industry. West Overton lost its unique character as it became more dependent on outside commerce. A wayside exhibit would relate this site to AIHP transportation stories, describe the village's response to changing industrial needs, and promote visitor understanding of the interrelationship of natural resources and human history.

#### **Zone 7 Agricultural Background Setting**

The west and south edges of the village are bordered by farmland. This agricultural area, with its gently rolling hills and tall grasses, creates a rural backdrop setting for the historic village.

#### **SUMMARY**

After experiencing West Overton, visitors should understand that the village has important lessons to teach. History is the story of people and their surroundings, their response to changes in the environment, and the consequences of their responses to those changes. The leaders of West Overton took advantage of the opportunities available to them (use of resources, adapting to change). Today's visitors to the village can learn to take advantage of their own opportunities.

## APPENDIX J: HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL PRIORITY MATRIX

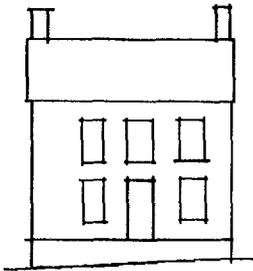
To make decisions regarding the use and alteration of the historic buildings in the village, Landmarks Design Associates of Pittsburgh was commissioned by the Park Service to develop a priority matrix. The matrix provides a reasoned and consistent approach to this decision-making process. It also examines the character-defining attributes of each of the structures to establish a quantitative system for evaluating the impact of each proposed use assignment and physical alteration.

In table J-1, two numerical evaluations are provided: the first assesses the importance of the feature in its existing condition, and the

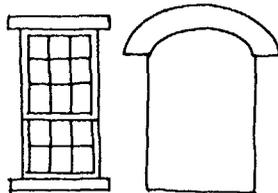
second assesses the presumed original appearance of the structure or its potential if restored. The term "important" denotes positive value only, where a feature is considered important because it contributes to the character and, ultimately, the village as a whole. The building numbers on table J-1 correspond to the building numbers on the map following the table.

The matrix addresses the context, the exterior from a distance and at close range, and the interior. Specifically, the matrix addresses the following visual and tangible features.

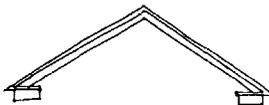
### Exterior



Shape. Shape is defined not only by the general massing of the structure, including its horizontal vs. vertical emphases and major projections, but also by the various components that combine to create the overall shape. Bay configurations and the definition of stories contribute to the overall effects of shape.



Openings. Windows and doors are considered in terms of their shape, rhythm, location, and the effects of depth that they create.



Roof Materials and Related Features. Often the most prominent feature of the building, the roof is critical to the visual character. The roofline and materials as well as related features, such as chimneys, dormers, and cornice detailing, must be assessed. With respect to the roofs, the exterior close-range evaluation is based on the view from the street, distant enough to permit a view of the materials from below. Roofing materials must, in some cases, be verified.

TABLE J-1: WEST OVERTON VILLAGE PRIORITY MATRIX

	Exterior – Distance							Exterior – Close Range						
	Shape	Openings	Roof Materials**	Projections	Other Materials	Trim	Setting	Shape	Openings	Roof Materials**	Projections	Other Materials	Trim	Setting
1 A. Overholt House	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5
2 Springhouse/Cottage	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	NA/5	5/5	4/5	5/5
3 Summer Kitchen/Washhouse	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	N/A	5/5	5/5	5/5
4 Carriage House	5/5	5/5	5/5	N/A	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	N/A	5/5	5/5	5/5
5 Smokehouse	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	NA	5/5	5/5	5/5
6 Stables	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5
7 Outbuilding	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	NA	5/5	5/5	5/5
8 Farmhouse	2/3	3/3	3/3	2/4	2/3	2/2	2/2	2/3	3/3	2/3	3/4	2/3	2/3	2/2
9 Small Barn	5/5	4/5	3/5	NA	5/5	3/3	5/5	5/5	3/5	3/5	NA	4/5	3/4	5/5
10 Large Barn	3/5	4/5	3/5	NA	4/5	3/3	5/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	NA	4/5	3/4	5/5
11 Little Stables	5/5	4/5	5/5	4/4	4/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	3/5	5/5
12 Warehouse	3/5	4/5	3/5	3/3	3/5	4/4	5/5	3/5	4/5	3/5	4/4	3/5	3/5	5/5
13 Distillery	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5
14 Coke Oven	2/5*	NA*	NA	NA	2/2	NA	2/2	2/5*	NA	NA	NA	2/2	NA	2/2
15 Residence	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
16 Butcher House Site	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
17 Garage	2/2	2/2	2/2	NA	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
18 H.S. Overholt House	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/4	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	4/5	5/5
19 C.S. Overholt House/Store	5/5	4/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	3/5	5/5
20 Worker House A	5/5	5/5	5/5	2/5	4/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	3/5	4/5	4/5	5/5
21 Residence (Shed/Stable)	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	4/4	5/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	5/5
22 Worker House B	5/5	5/5	5/5	2/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	4/5	5/5
23 Residence (Shed/Stable)	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	4/4	5/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	5/5
24 Worker House C	3/5	3/5	3/5	2/5	3/5	4/4	5/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	2/5	3/5	3/5	5/5
25 Worker House D	4/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	4/5	5/5	5/5	2/5	5/5	4/5	5/5
26 Worker House F	5/5	5/5	5/5	2/5	5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	2/5	5/5	4/5	5/5

Existing/As restored to presumed original appearance

5 = Critically important 4 = Important 3 = Of marginal importance 2 = Not important  
 NA = Not applicable I = Inaccessible

\* Restored = removed as nonoriginal feature. Opportunity to recreate original open space.

\*\*Materials must be verified in many cases.

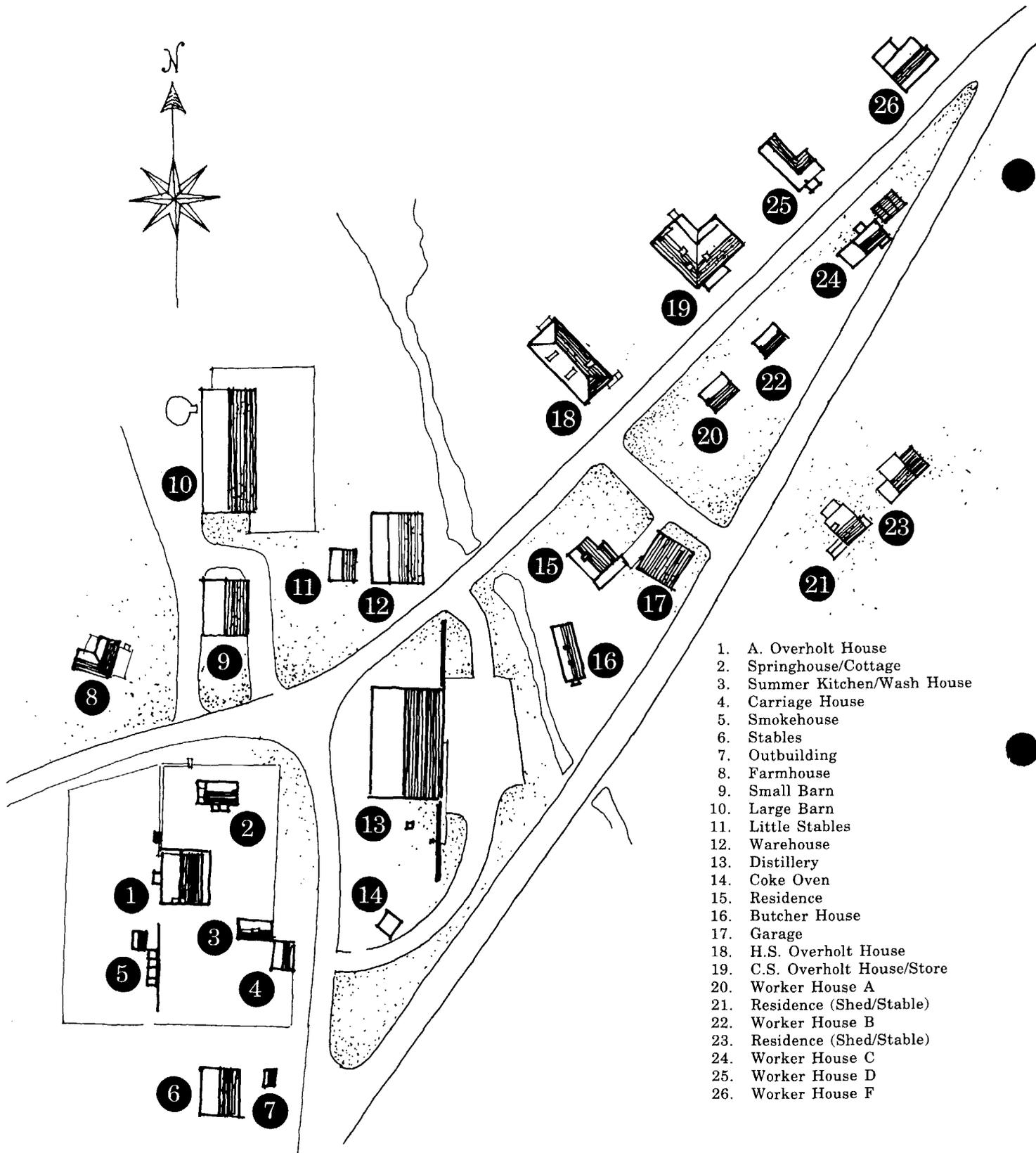
**WEST OVERTON VILLAGE PRIORITY MATRIX**

	Expansion Options	Interior					Overall Significance	Use Impact
		Individual Spaces	Space Sequences	Interior Features	Materials/Finishes	Exposed Structure		
1 A. Overholt House	0	4/4	4/4	3/5	3/4	NA	4/5	4/5
2 Springhouse/Cottage	0	3/4	3/3	3/4	2/3	NA	3/5	5/5
3 Summer Kitchen/Washhouse	0	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	NA	4/4	4/4
4 Carriage House	0	3/3	3/3	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/3	3/3
5 Smokehouse	0	4/4	NA	3/3	4/4	3/3	4/4	4/4
6 Stables	0	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	3/3
7 Outbuilding	0	3/3	3/3	3/3	2/2	3/3	4/4	4/4
8 Farmhouse	W	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	NA	2/2	2/2
9 Small Barn	0	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	5/5	4/4	3/4
10 Large Barn	N	4/4	4/4	3/3	4/4	5/5	4/5	3/4
11 Little Stables	0	3/3	3/3	3/3	2/3	3/3	4/4	3/3
12 Warehouse	N	3/3	3/3	3/3	2/3	4/4	4/4	3/3
13 Distillery	0	3/5	3/3	3/4	3/4	4/4	4/4	3/4
14 Coke Oven	NA	NA	NA	NA	3/NA	NA	2/2	5/5
15 Residence	0	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	NA	2/2	2/2
16 Butcher House Site	0	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	NA	2/2	2/2
17 Garage	0	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	NA	2/2	2/2
18 H.S. Overholt House	N	2/4	2/4	4/4	3/4	NA	4/5	5/5
19 C.S. Overholt House/Store	N	3/4	3/4	4/4	3/4	NA	4/5	5/5
20 Worker House A	0	4/4	5/5	4/4	3/4	3/3	4/5	5/5
21 Residence (Shed/Stable)	S	I	I	I	I	I	3/4	2/3
22 Worker House B	0	4/4	5/5	4/4	2/4	NA	4/5	5/5
23 Residence (Shed/Stable)	S	I	I	I	I	I	3/4	2/3
24 Worker House C	0	1/4	1/5	1/4	1/4	NA	4/5	5/5
25 Worker House D	N	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	NA	3/4	1/5
26 Worker House F	N	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	NA	3/4	1/5

Existing/As restored to presumed original appearance

5 = Critically important 4 = Important 3 = Of marginal importance 2 = Not important  
 NA = Not applicable I = Inaccessible

S = south N = north E = east W = west 0 = Not expandable



1. A. Overholt House
2. Springhouse/Cottage
3. Summer Kitchen/Wash House
4. Carriage House
5. Smokehouse
6. Stables
7. Outbuilding
8. Farmhouse
9. Small Barn
10. Large Barn
11. Little Stables
12. Warehouse
13. Distillery
14. Coke Oven
15. Residence
16. Butcher House
17. Garage
18. H.S. Overholt House
19. C.S. Overholt House/Store
20. Worker House A
21. Residence (Shed/Stable)
22. Worker House B
23. Residence (Shed/Stable)
24. Worker House C
25. Worker House D
26. Worker House F

## WEST OVERTON STRUCTURES

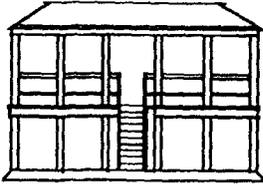
WEST OVERTON VILLAGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

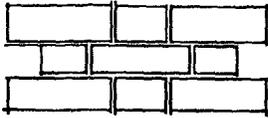
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service  
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

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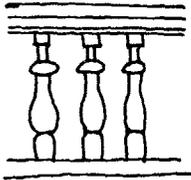
ON MICROFILM



Projections. Projections, including porches and overhanging roofs, frequently are neglected or altered. Where a feature does not survive, a high priority rating in the "as-restored" category suggests that it should be replicated.



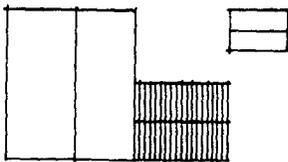
Materials. The surface qualities of color, texture, shape, variety, and arrangement may have varying levels of impact on a structure's overall visual character. This category covers predominantly the materials on vertical surfaces of the exterior.



Trim. Trim may be recessive or may dominate the other visual aspects of a building. With the possible exception of the A. Overholt house, trim is not a strong visual feature in West Overton, although research is required to determine original features where they are lost.

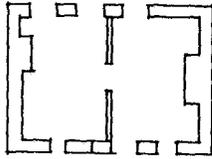


Setting. Setting considers the relationship of the building to the street, to neighboring buildings, and to the larger landscape, as well as the presence of site features such as gardens, walks, fences, etc. The importance of these elements of setting to the architectural and interpretive value of each structure is evaluated. The interpretive value of the setting beyond the immediate village scene has already been negatively impacted by the highway and surrounding development; the farmland to the northwest is a notable exception. Potential exists to modify or reclaim that property to support the interpretive scheme of the village. What is being evaluated here is the importance of each individual building and its immediate surroundings to the context of the village.

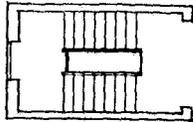


Expansion options. Anticipating future needs, each structure is evaluated to determine in which direction, if any, it might be expanded with minimal impact to both the individual building and the entire village environment. The matrix assigns a preferred direction (i.e., north, south, east, or west) to buildings that could be expanded and a 0 to buildings that should not be expanded. For buildings of critical importance, 0 indicates that the structure is too important to alter; in the case of buildings rated to be of no importance, the 0 indicates that an addition would only exacerbate the structure's negative impact on the project. This evaluation for expansion does not include alterations for visitors with disabilities; it is believed that, in most cases, ramps would impose the least impact if placed on the sides of the buildings.

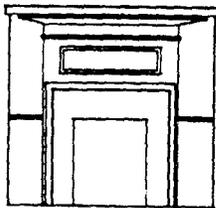
**Interior**



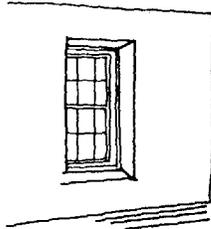
Individually important spaces. The importance of individual spaces is evaluated in terms of their size, configuration, original use, and overall impact.



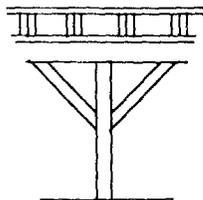
Related spaces or space sequences. Interior spaces that derive their impact from sequential arrangement or represent a significant floor plan type are evaluated.



Interior features. Three-dimensional building elements or architectural details that are addressed in the assessment include such features as fireplaces, stairways, panelling, hardware, fixtures, historic building systems, and wood trim.



Materials/finishes. Both handcrafted finishes and machine-made products are considered in the evaluation of structural and surface materials. The plainness of materials may be as critical in defining the character of a building as the more elaborate or decorative finishes.



Exposed structure. In the farm and distillery buildings and selected houses, the importance of the exposed building structural system to the character of the building is assessed.

**Use Impact and the Cultural Landscape**

Both individual structures and the overall village have associations with a historic cultural landscape. The impact of each proposed use for each structure must be considered not only in terms of physical intrusions, but also in terms of its appropriateness to the presumed original cultural landscape. Under this category, a **5** indicates that the structure has/had strong associations and is therefore highly sensitive;

extremely careful consideration should be given in assigning uses to these structures so that they are not negatively impacted. A **2** would indicate that uses might be assigned with less caution.

Based on the collective assessment, conclusions have been drawn regarding the general approach that should be taken to restoring the West Overton environment to maximize architectural integrity and interpretive value. Also, the matrix could easily be expanded to

address nonarchitectural issues such as interpretive themes, acquisition priorities, and levels of historic and graphic documentation.

### **Conclusions**

Based on a quantitative evaluation of the matrix, the following qualitative conclusions may be drawn concerning the restoration, interpretation, and general treatment of the buildings and environs of West Overton.

1. Most critical to the visual character of West Overton Village is the setting. A nearly intact townscape of the mid 19th century, the village has suffered only one demolition of a principal building, one building intrusion, and the addition of the paved road. This is unique in western Pennsylvania. This visual effect should be preserved by maintaining the spaces between buildings as they currently exist, reclaiming any open spaces that have been developed, and re-creating as much as possible the original landscape features, including road and pathway treatment, wells and privies, gardens, and other plantings.
2. Although most of the buildings of the village are not individually significant architecturally, their collective impact as a period piece should not be underestimated. It is therefore recommended that all facades be eventually restored to their original appearances, including materials, openings, porches, roof configurations, and trim details.
3. Given the great quantity and variety of space available for adaptive use and interpretation, additions to the buildings should be unnecessary and are not recommended.
4. Worker houses A, B, and C are unique in western Pennsylvania. Only one other example is known — the Penn Salt Company housing in Natrona; it has been altered. The original interior floor plans of these three houses should by all means be preserved.
5. The distillery lends itself most readily to adaptive use, having lost all of its original equipment and differentiation of spaces by original function — attributes that would have held the most significance for the structure.
6. The issues of the historic cultural landscape and its impact on reuse strategies suggest that the houses should accommodate more passive uses and that higher levels of activity should be assigned to the barn and distillery. Clearly, some aspects of the cultural landscape cannot be replicated, but all cultural landscape features should be considered as reuse feasibility is assessed.

## APPENDIX K: IMMEDIATE STABILIZATION MEASURES NECESSARY FOR HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Many of the proposed immediate and short-term stabilization measures outlined in the September 1990 *Conservation Survey* prepared by Wank Adams Slavin Associates have already been enacted by West Overton Museums for the homestead, distillery, H.S. Overholt house, C.S. Overholt house/store, and worker houses A and B. The following stabilization measures are based on the *Conservation Survey*, a building stabilization checklist for the farm buildings (filled out on March 23, 1993, by Richard Glance, an architect and board member of West Overton Museums), and a tour of the buildings taken by Landmarks Design Associates on March 25, 1993.

### A. OVERHOLT HOMESTEAD

**Stables** — Necessary immediate measures to protect and stabilize the building would include installing a new bearing plate in the west wall.

**A. Overholt house** — This building needs no immediate stabilization.

**Springhouse/Cottage** — To protect the building from excessive heat and stabilize the building, an attic fan would be added for ventilation and a perimeter trench drain would be added to alleviate ground-water effects on the building foundation.

**Summer kitchen/washhouse** — To stabilize the building and protect it from excessive heat, an attic fan would be added for ventilation.

**Carriage house** — Necessary measures to protect and stabilize the building would include regrading the area at the southwest inset to drain surface water away from the building.

**Smokehouse** — No stabilization would be required for this building.

**Outbuilding** — No stabilization would be required for this building.

### DISTILLERY

No immediate stabilization measures would be required for the distillery.

### OVERHOLT STOCK FARM

**Farmhouse** To stabilize and protect this building, the land at west side of building would be regraded to direct surface water away from base of building and ventilated plywood panels would be installed over all window openings. Electrical and water services to the building should be disconnected until the building is used for living quarters (which would probably be in a later phase of project implementation).

**Large Barn** — The following stabilization measures would be needed: shore up main floor and main columns above by inserting new columns throughout lower level, especially for the entire north third of structure; brace and shore northeast column on main level; add north/south bracing between two northern columns and north wall; remove bricks that are about to fall at top north corners of east and west walls; prime and paint louvers that are in fair to good condition; and seal all openings at grade level to prevent vandalism.

**Small Barn** The following stabilization measures would be needed: shore the lintels and masonry wall on the north elevation and the masonry at the first floor northwest corner; brace the interior to stop the northward and eastward shift; prime and paint the louvered openings that are in fair to good condition; and install ventilated plywood panels over

louvers that are missing or in poor condition.

**Warehouse** Necessary immediate stabilization measures include regrading the west side of building to divert surface water from the base of the building and bracing the east wall to prevent further movement.

**Small Stable** The west wall, where the brick has been removed, should be immediately stabilized. A temporary timber bracing system should be installed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREA**

**H.S. Overholt House** Necessary immediate stabilization would include repairing roof leaks at the north chimney area and above the third window from the north on the west elevation.

**C.S. Overholt House/Store** Necessary immediate stabilization would include repairing roof leaks at the stair landings at the rear inside corner of house and along ridgeline of east wing, regrading areas around all basement openings that face the former rear porch area, and reblocking to prevent water infiltration.

**Worker House A** This building would require no immediate stabilization.

**Worker House B** Necessary immediate stabilization would include repairing the roof at the east chimney.

**Worker Houses C, D, and F** Once acquired the following steps should be taken:

- a. Remove all nonoriginal additions.
- b. Remove all debris from interior of building.
- c. Remove any carpet floor coverings.
- d. Remove any original window sashes and store in a safe place. Install ventilated plywood panels on all openings.
- e. Repair any roof leaks; add temporary gutters and downspouts.
- f. Regrade any areas where existing grades cause surface water to run against base of building.

## APPENDIX L: SCOPE OF WORK FOR HISTORIC STRUCTURES

The following outline scope of work is based on Landmark Design Associates' tours of the property during the course of the study and on the reports previously prepared by the NPS Historic American Building Survey team. In many cases further research is necessary to determine what the proper treatments and materials should be. For instance, no study has been done to determine what the original roofing materials were on the buildings. There also may have been changes made in the buildings before

the 1920s that are too subtle to recognize in a preliminary study. Assumptions have been made based on current knowledge and evidence.

Following is a list of general outline specifications that explain the assumptions made for various items of work and the standards of quality for the proposed work. Following this list of general outline specifications are the pages for the scope of work for each building individually.

### GENERAL OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS

#### EXTERIOR

##### Roof

- Slate to be real rather than imitation with proper size, lap, and pattern as determined by historic structure report (HSR). Original roofs may have been sawn wood shingles in some cases. Pending that determination, all assumptions are based on slate.
- Standing seam metal roofs to be terne coated stainless steel for longevity. Size, style, configuration and paint color as determined by HSR.
- All roof sheathing to be repaired to a condition ready for a finished roof.

##### Gutters & Downspouts

- Gutters to be as determined by HSR.
- Where none were originally used, install half round terne coated stainless. These will have a minimal effect on the cornice line but are necessary to keep excess moisture from the base of the buildings. If slate is determined to be the original roof covering, a "stop" gutter is recommended. This will have no effect on the historic cornice line.
- Downspouts as determined by HSR or smooth round galvanized and painted.
- PVC underground leaders to carry water from downspout to stream or swales. Use terra cotta connections where visible.

##### Masonry

- Brick and stone to be cleaned where appropriate using mild chemical cleaners and moderate water pressures.
- Repointing to use mortar matching original in content, mix, color, and joint style.
- Modern pointing applied within 20 years in good condition to remain in place. Attempting to remove this mortar could cause more damage than leaving it in place.
- Painted pointing joints to be repainted if determined to be original.

##### Windows

- Where possible, restore all original wood windows and frames.
- New wood windows to match originals with single glazing.
- Interior storm windows to be installed in all applications except where room is to be exhibited as an historic room.
- Louvered openings on barns and stables to be restored.

##### Doors

- Wood doors to be restored where possible and replicated when necessary.
- Both existing and new doors will require hardware that is appropriate to the building and the West Overton Museums' security system.

Porches, Exterior Details

- These are to be restored or replicated as required. In a few cases the porch floor will have to be raised to accommodate an accessible path.

INTERIOR

Insulation

- All attics for spaces that are to be heated are to be insulated at the roof using fiberglass insulation to R-30. In some instances insulation in the roof rafter space will be impractical and must be done at floor level. In these instances any heating equipment in the attic space will require insulation.
- In most cases exterior walls are plaster on brick and cannot be insulated. Where there is a wall cavity in frame buildings or where an exterior wall will be furred out to retrofit a room for adaptive use, R-19 insulation should be added.

Walls and Ceilings

- Existing plaster walls and ceilings in fair condition are to remain. Patch as required.
- New walls and ceilings or total replacement can be accomplished with lath and plaster in restored spaces and drywall in adaptive use spaces.

Woodwork

- All historic woodwork to remain.
- Woodwork to be prepped and painted or the existing surface finish is to be restored as determined by further study.
- In properties identified for residential use, existing lead based paint shall be stripped or encapsulated.
- New woodwork to match historic woodwork in profile and size in restored spaces and adaptive use spaces where at least 50% of historic woodwork remains. Simpler profiles of similar massing can be used in remaining adaptive use spaces.

Floors

- Existing floors to be retained and restored. In most instances these are wood.
- In adaptive use areas badly damaged or missing original floors can be replaced with plywood and carpet.
- Wet areas in restrooms and kitchens are to be vinyl tile for low use areas and ceramic tile for high use areas on new plywood underlayment.

Heating

- New heating systems are to be forced air unless otherwise specified in individual wire-ups. The heating fuel source will be based on availability. For economy, natural gas is recommended; second choice would be heating oil and last electric.

Plumbing

- Plumbing systems include all new pipes, fittings, and fixtures. They also provide for water and sewer connections to existing or proposed public water and sewer systems in the street.

Electrical

- A new main service, disconnect and panel board, and all new wiring are required. An underground service entry is assumed.
- Fire, smoke, security alarm, and emergency lighting systems are proposed for all buildings.

APPENDIXES

1. HOMESTEAD

Exterior

- Roof — Existing slate roof to remain.
- Gutters & Downspouts — Existing stop gutter system is to remain.
- Masonry — No work is proposed.
- Windows — Upgrade hardware.
- Doors — No work is proposed.
- Porches — No work is proposed.

Interior

- Insulation — Add R-30 fiberglass batt insulation in attic; add interior storm windows at second floor.
- Wall & Ceiling Surfaces — Some plaster patching required. Restore plaster in all restored rooms as determined by HRS.
- Floors — Replace/refinish as determined by HSR.
- Woodwork — Restore original finish as determined by HSR.
- Heating — Install two furnaces, one in maintenance area in basement to serve basement and first floor, one in attic to serve second floor.
- Plumbing — Provide one unisex accessible restroom in south basement on second floor for office.
- Electrical — Provide new electrical system; retain recent smoke/fire detection system.

2. SPRING HOUSE/COTTAGE

Exterior

- Roof — Replace existing split wood shingle roof with slate roof. Size, pattern, color as determined by HSR.
- Gutters & Downspouts — Install new system.
- Masonry — Retain as is or rebuilt as determined by HSR.
- Windows — Retain as is or rebuild as determined by HSR.
- Doors — Retain as is or rebuild as determined by HSR.
- Trellis — Retain/restore as determined by HSR.

3. SUMMER KITCHEN/WASHHOUSE

Exterior

- Roof — Install new slate roof, gutters and downspouts; regrade surface to fall toward the southwest at southwest inset.
- Masonry — Minor spot pointing required.
- Windows — Retain and repair existing windows; replace deteriorated lintels.
- Doors — Repair existing doors.

Interior

- Insulation — None is proposed, the building is to remain unheated.
- Walls and Ceilings — Walls and ceiling to be restored as determined by HSR.
- Woodwork — Woodwork to be restored as determined by HSR.
- Heating — No heating system is proposed.
- Plumbing — No plumbing system is proposed.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system complete.

#### 4. CARRIAGE HOUSE

##### Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts; regrade at southwest inset.
- Masonry — Repoint missing and cracked joints; rebuild cracked area above door on south elevation.
- Windows — Repair existing.
- Doors — Repair existing.

##### Interior

- Insulation — None is proposed, the building is to remain unheated.
- Walls and Ceiling — Restore as determined by HSR.
- Woodwork — Restore as determined by HSR.
- Floors — No work proposed for existing concrete floor unless HSR determines more appropriate finish.
- Heating — No heating system is proposed.
- Plumbing — No plumbing system is proposed.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system complete.

#### 5. SMOKEHOUSE

##### Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof of slate or sawn wood shingle based on further research.
- Gutters & Downspouts — Install new system.

#### 6. STABLES

##### Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters and downspouts. Materials and cornice details determined by further research.
- Masonry — Restore brick on north wall of inset.
- Windows — Repair existing including deteriorated and missing lintels.
- Doors — Repair existing; replace nonoriginal doors with replicas of originals.

##### Interior

- Insulation — None proposed.
- Walls & Ceilings — Clean interior brick walls and exposed framed ceilings in all first floor spaces.
- Woodwork — Repair and clean all woodwork in first floor spaces including stable area. Restore/replicate stalls to be left for exhibit.
- Floors — Remove existing floor boards on first floor, excavate, install concrete floor and reinstall original wood floor at original elevation. Restore planking on second level.
- Heating — Install electric radiant heat in two small spaces to be used for orientation and neighboring attractions exhibit.
- Plumbing — None proposed.
- Electrical — Install new system complete.

#### 7. OUTBUILDING

- Masonry — Rebuild damaged areas at west elevation and at northwest corner.

## 8. FARMHOUSE

### Exterior

- Demolition — Remove modern porch; remove concrete slab on north side.
- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Exterior Siding — Remove all metal siding; restore original wood siding.
- Windows — Restore all original windows.
- Doors — Restore all original doors.
- Porches — Install replica of original front porch.
- Masonry — Repair foundation.

### Interior

- Insulation — Insulate attic and all exterior walls.
- Walls and Ceilings — All new walls and ceilings to be drywall.
- Woodwork — Repair and refinish woodwork.
- Floors — Remove nonoriginal floor tile; repair existing wood floors and install carpet and tile as appropriate for residential use.
- Heating — Install a new forced air heating system in the basement.
- Plumbing — Install new plumbing system for kitchen and bathroom.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.
- Structural — Level and reinforce all floors; repair northwest addition framing as required.

## 9. SMALL BARN

### Exterior

- Demolition — Remove existing concrete and concrete block troughs.
- Roof — Install new roof, probably of metal, gutters and downspouts; material and detailing to be determined by further research.
- Masonry — Rebuild extensive areas which have bowed out on the north and east and bowed in on the south and west. Restore original first floor openings on north; repoint all brick and stone.
- Grading — Restore on west side as determined by further study.
- Window Openings — Restore/replicate all wood louvered openings and all windows; replace deteriorated wood sills and lintels.
- Doors — Replicate original doors at all original locations.

### Interior

- Electrical — Install an electrical system, individually metered for tenant use.
- Floors — Repair existing concrete floor; provide adequate drainage to exterior.
- Structural — Restore wood floor structure and planking.

## 10. LARGE BARN

### Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof as determined by further research, probably standing seam metal.
- Gutter & Downspouts — Install new system as determined by future study.
- Masonry — Repoint brick and stone 100%; repair brick on interior at northwest corner of structure; repair exterior brick where west and east walls meet the roof on the north side; restore brick arches at lower level; restore stone foundation, particularly on interior side of southern entrance; close in nonoriginal openings on east wall.

Grading — Restore original bank on west side.

Window Openings — Repair/replace wood louvered openings as required; clean and paint metal lintels and sills; restore arched openings on east wall; restore original openings lower level on west wall.

Doors — Replicate original doors at west main barn entry and at person doors on north and south sides.

Other Details — Restore main level access doors on east wall.

#### Interior

Insulation — Insulate new restroom area on all sides.

Walls and ceilings — Interior surfaces are to be cleaned of debris but otherwise are to remain as is.

Woodwork — Interior wood surfaces are to be cleaned of debris.

Floors — Lower level floor is assumed to be concrete in all areas; patch as required.

Restore/replicate original plank floor on main level.

Heating — Electric radiant heating is proposed for restroom area; otherwise no heating is proposed.

Plumbing — Provide plumbing for restrooms on main level. Water and sewer connections are to be provided for hand sinks.

Structural — Restore original structural system at upper and lower levels; restore lofts to original condition.

Electrical — Install new electrical system.

### 11. CARRIAGE HOUSE/STABLES

#### Exterior

Roofing — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.

Masonry — Rebuild and restore west wall; repoint all brick and stone.

Windows — Install new wood windows to match originals in all locations.

Doors — Install carriage entry doors in south wall to match originals.

Cornice — Rebuild wood soffit/cornice as determined by HSR.

#### Interior

Electrical — Install new electrical system.

This building is to be used for the storage of maintenance equipment. No further work is proposed for the interior of the building.

### 12. WAREHOUSE

#### Exterior

Demolition — Remove shed on east side of building.

Roof — Install roof, gutters, and downspouts.

Wood Siding — Restore/replace all wood siding.

Windows — Restore/replace all wood windows; restore/replicate exterior trim.

Doors — Install new doors to match originals at front, west side and rear.

## APPENDIXES

### Interior

- Insulation — Insulate roof and all exterior walls.
- Walls & ceilings — Restore/replicate boarded wood walls; restore ceiling to original condition.
- Floors — Install new plank floor on new wood framing.
- Heating — Install a new heating system in attic space.
- Plumbing — Install single restroom in rear corner.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.
- Structural — Install new foundation, and sill throughout exposed sections of foundation to match stone on east wall.

## 13. DISTILLERY

### Exterior

- Demolition — Remove steel attachments on east wall.
- Roof — Retain existing roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — No work is proposed.
- Windows — Repair existing windows.
- Doors — Install new doors to match originals at new front entry location and new rear exit.

### Interior

- Insulation — Since the structure of the roof is exposed on the 4th and 5th floors, no insulation is proposed for this area. Insulate exterior walls where possible at areas of new work including classrooms, library, and office.
- Walls — Repair plaster at existing walls; new walls to be drywall.
- Ceilings — All ceilings to remain exposed structure except at multipurpose room, classrooms, and restrooms which are to have a new drywall ceiling with insulation for sound insulation for floor above. Other ceilings may require drywall for fire protection as determined by further study.
- Floors — Repair and refinish all floors.
- Heating — Install central heating and cooling facilities with zoned air distribution. System design will require further study by a mechanical engineer. System must provide for zoned control of heating, cooling, ventilation, and humidity control.
- Plumbing — Install plumbing system for bathrooms, kitchen, and fire suppression system.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.
- Structural — Revise structural system in multipurpose room to facilitate larger clear spans.

## 14. H. S. OVERHOLT HOUSE

### Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts. Existing is slate with a metal cap at ridge joints. Restore dormers.
- Masonry — Rebuild small bulging front wall section at basement level. Rebuild bulging section at rear stone retaining wall. Repoint all brick and stone. The yellow paint is believed to be an early application. If further research proves this to be true, the brick should be repainted.
- Windows — Repair/replace all wood window sash and frames.
- Doors — Restore/replicate front door, sidelights, and transom.
- Porches — Replicate original second floor front balcony. Restore sandstone steps and iron railing at front porch. Restore inset east porch and modify as required to provide an accessible route to the first floor and an emergency exit for the second floor.

Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic and exterior walls where possible at basement and northeast corner rooms.
- Walls and Ceiling — Repair plaster surfaces where possible, replace when necessary.
- Woodwork — Repair/refinish when possible. Replicate when necessary.
- Floors — Remove nonoriginal floor coverings; repair and refinish.
- Heating — Install 2 forced air systems, one in the basement for basement and first floor and one in the attic for the second floor. Depending on the number of different tenants, 2 furnaces may be required in the basement, one each for the basement and first floor.
- Plumbing — Install new plumbing system. We recommend that all new plumbing be confined to the basement and the rear northeast area of the first and second floors.
- Electric — Install new electrical system. Sub-meter as necessary for different tenants.

15. C.S. OVERHOLT HOUSE AND STORE

Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — Repair minor foundation failure on north wall and slight first floor masonry bulge on east wall at rear of building (former porch area). Replace extensive spalled sections of dressed stone sill course on front, west, and rear sides. Clean all brick and stone unless future research indicates stone was originally painted. Reset/restore front sandstone steps.
- Windows — Repair/replace all wood window sash and frames. Replicate original wood and glass storefront.
- Doors — Restore or replicate all exterior doors. Restore door, sidelight, and transoms on both first and second floor of main facade.
- Porches — Restore second floor cast iron balcony. Replicate rear porch based on future research. Rework rear porch to accommodate accessible route to first floor and emergency exit from the second floor.

Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic and exterior walls where possible at basement and rear north rooms on first and second floors. Add interior storm windows in all rooms except at store.
- Walls and Ceilings — Repair plaster surface where possible, replace when necessary.
- Woodwork — Repair/refinish when possible, replicate when necessary.
- Floors — Repair and refinish. Restore all stone floors in basement where they exist.
- Heating — Install a minimum of 2 forced air furnace systems, one in the basement for the basement and first floors and one in the attic for the second floor. Because of the ell shaped plan and the possibility of multiple tenants, additional systems may be necessary. Preferred zones for installing the equipment are illustrated on the plans.
- Plumbing — Install new plumbing system. We recommend that all new plumbing be confined to the basement and the rear north area on the first and second floors.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system. Sub-meter as necessary for different tenants.

APPENDIXES

16. WORKER HOUSE A

Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — Repoint all brick and stone; rebuild slight bulge in rear first wall level.
- Windows — Restore/replace all windows; replace all lintels and sills.
- Door — Replicate all 3 original exterior doors.
- Porches — Install replica of original front and rear wood porches.

Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic and exterior walls where possible. Add interior storm windows throughout.
- Walls & Ceiling — Repair plaster surfaces where possible, replace where necessary.
- Woodwork — Restore all original wood surfaces at ceilings, interior walls and door and window trim.
- Floors — Repair and refinish; install new concrete floor in cellar.
- Heating — Install a single forced air furnace in the basement to serve the entire building.
- Plumbing — Install plumbing fixtures as required for intended use.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.

17. WORKER HOUSE B

Exterior

- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — Remove stucco finish from the west, south, and north elevations. Repoint all brick and stone. Rebuild brick areas damaged by stucco treatment.
- Windows — Restore/replace all windows.
- Doors — Replicate all 3 original exterior doors.
- Porches — Install replica of original front and rear porches based on further study.  
Add accessible ramps to rear basement entry and front first floor entry.

Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic.
- Walls and Ceilings — Restore original wall and ceiling surface throughout. Restore brick at north fireplace in cellar.
- Woodwork — Restore original wood boarding and trim throughout.
- Floors — Remove nonoriginal floor covering. Repair and refinish. Install new floor in cellar as determined by HSR.
- Heating — We recommend a radiant electric heat system be integrated into the interior restoration plan. The ducted forced interior air system proposed for most other structures in the complex will have too great a visual impact on the few small spaces that are used for exhibit in this building.
- Plumbing — No plumbing is proposed.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.

## 18. WORKER HOUSE C

### Exterior

- Demolition — Remove all non-original structures and additions on the site including chimney on east wall.
- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — Restore all original masonry window and door openings. Repoint all brick and stone.
- Windows — Replicate all original windows (11 assumed).
- Doors — Replicate all original doors (3 assumed).
- Porches — Install replica of front and rear porches.

### Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic and exterior walls where possible. Add interior storm windows throughout.
- Walls and Ceilings — It is assumed that new walls and ceilings for adaptive use will be finished with drywall.
- Woodwork — Restore any original woodwork that remains in this building
- Floors — Repair and refinish.
- Heating — Install a single forced air furnace in the basement to serve the entire building.
- Plumbing — Install plumbing fixtures as required for the intended use.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.

## 19. WORKER HOUSE D

### Exterior

- Demolition — Clean out all non-original materials and debris. Remove existing nonoriginal porch.
- Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
- Masonry — Rebuild chimneys, damaged areas, and area on west wall in-filled with concrete block. Repoint all brick and stone.
- Windows — Install replicas of all wood windows. Replace deteriorated lintels and sills
- Doors — Replicate all original exterior doors.
- Porches — Replicate front and rear wood porches.

### Interior

- Insulation — Insulate entire attic and all exterior walls where possible.
- Walls and Ceilings — It is assumed that walls and ceilings replaced or installed for adaptive use will be of drywall construction.
- Woodwork — Restore any original woodwork that remains in this building.
- Floors — Repair and refinish.
- Heating — Install multiple forced air furnace systems as required for adaptive use. Place in basement and attic spaces wherever possible.
- Plumbing — Install plumbing fixtures as required for intended use.
- Electrical — Install new electrical system.

APPENDIXES

20. WORKER HOUSE F

Exterior

Demolition — Clean out all non-original materials and debris. Remove existing nonoriginal front porch and rear ell.

Roof — Install new roof, gutters, and downspouts.

Masonry — Rebuild chimney. Repoint all brick and stone.

Windows — Install replicas of all wood windows. Replace deteriorated lintels and sills

Doors — Replicate all original exterior doors.

Porches — Replicate front and rear wood porches.

Interior

Insulation — Insulate entire attic and all exterior walls where possible.

Walls and Ceilings — It is assumed that walls and ceilings replaced or installed for adaptive use will be of drywall construction.

Woodwork — Restore any original woodwork which remains in this building.

Floors — Repair and refinish.

Heating — Install multiple forced air furnace systems as required for adaptive use. Place in basement and attic spaces wherever possible.

Plumbing — Install plumbing fixtures as required for intended use.

Electrical — Install new electrical system.

## APPENDIX M: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

Most media proposed in this plan will probably be funded from a variety of sources. Design and production will be phased over a period of several years.

### WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

Plan, produce, and install one (1) orientation and ten (10) interpretive wayside exhibits throughout the village.

### MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Plan, produce, and install three (3) exhibit panels in the Overholt homestead stable.

Plan, produce, and install three (3) visitor center exhibits, including historic village graphic/painting in the distillery.

Plan, produce, and install museum exhibits in the distillery exhibit areas (about 1,500 square feet).

### AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA

Plan, produce, and install a 12- to 15- minute video program, including captioning, and equipped projection booth, including equipment for 35-mm slide projection and audio.

Plan, produce, and install an audio message of ambient distilling and milling sounds and conversational dialogue to provide background sound as visitors enter the distillery's exhibit room.

Plan, produce, and install a 3- to 4-minute video, including captioning, to accompany an exhibit interpreting the village's mill industry.

Plan, produce, and install a 3- to 4-minute video, including captioning, to accompany an exhibit interpreting the village's rye whiskey industry.

Plan, produce, and install a travelers information station and a 2- to 3-minute audio message.

### HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

Plan, acquire, and install historic furnishings in six rooms and two halls of the Abraham Overholt house (approximately 2,000 sq. ft.) and in four dependencies related to the Overholt homestead — stable (840 sq. ft.), summer kitchen/washhouse (540 sq. ft.), springhouse/cottage (875 sq. ft.), and carriage house (450 sq. ft.).

Plan, acquire, and install historic furnishings in three rooms of worker house B (700 sq. ft.).

Plan, acquire, and install historic furnishings in the farm's large barn (approximately 4,000 sq. ft.).

### TRAVELERS INFORMATION STATION

Design and acquire a travelers information station to describe 19th century Pennsylvania landscapes and lifestyles and introduce West Overton as a historic village in that rural landscape.

### PUBLICATIONS

Plan, design, and publish a historical handbook interpreting West Overton's history and significance.

Plan, design, and publish a site bulletin for marketing the site through tourism organizations.

Plan, design, and publish a site bulletin to provide onsite information and interpretive guide map.

APPENDIX N: LETTERS REGARDING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Suite 322  
315 South Allen Street  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801



August 3, 1992

Mr. Frederick C. K. Babb  
Chief, Western Pennsylvania  
Partnerships Branch  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Babb:

This responds to your letter of July 20, 1992 requesting information about federally listed or proposed endangered and threatened species within the area affected by the America's Industrial Heritage Project, AMIN 110, West Overton Museums, located near Scottdale, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are known to exist in the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. A compilation of federally listed endangered and threatened species in Pennsylvania is enclosed for your information.

This response relates only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing other Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other legislation.

Federal Candidate and State-listed Species

Candidate species are species under consideration by the Service for possible inclusion on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Because many of these species are known to have suffered population declines, the Service encourages federal agencies and other planners to consider candidate species when planning and implementing their projects.

The Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) is maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The Fish and Wildlife Database is maintained by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. These databases contain the most up-to-date information about candidate and State-listed species in Pennsylvania. Requests for a PNDI review for the presence of candidate and State-listed species, as well as other natural resources of special concern, should be directed to:

*Appendix N: Letters Regarding Threatened and Endangered Species*

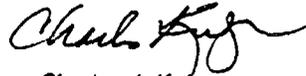
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
Division of Forest Advisory Services  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Should the data search reveal the presence of any candidate species on the site, the Service should be contacted to ensure that these species are not adversely affected by project activities.

Requests for information regarding State-listed endangered or threatened species should be directed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (birds and mammals), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (fish, reptiles, and amphibians), and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (plants).

Please contact Philip Edmunds of my staff at 814-234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance regarding endangered, threatened, or candidate species.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Kulp  
Supervisor

Enclosure

## FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED SPECIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
<b><u>FISHES</u></b>			
Shortnose sturgeon**	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E	Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters
<b><u>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</u></b>			
None			
<b><u>BIRDS</u></b>			
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	E	Entire state-recent nesting in Crawford, Dauphin, Lancaster, Tioga, York Counties
Peregrine falcon (American)	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	E	Entire state-reestablishment to former breeding range in progress
Peregrine falcon (Arctic)	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	E	Entire state-migratory
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	E	Presque Isle-no current nesting
<b><u>MAMMALS</u></b>			
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Entire state
<b><u>MOLLUSKS</u></b>			
Clubshell mussel	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	PE	French Creek and Allegheny River watersheds; Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer and Venango Counties
Dwarf wedge mussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E	Delaware River drainage-possibly extirpated
Fanshell	<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	E	Ohio River drainage-possibly extirpated
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma tonulosa rangiana</i>	PE	French Creek and Allegheny River watersheds; Crawford, Forest, Venango and Warren Counties
Orange pimpleback	<i>Plethobasus striatus</i>	E	Ohio River drainage-possibly extirpated
Pink mucket pearly mussel	<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	E	Ohio River drainage-possibly extirpated
Rough pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	E	Ohio River drainage-possibly extirpated
<b><u>PLANTS</u></b>			
Northeastern bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	E	Current - Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lackawanna Counties. Historic- Blair, Lehigh, Northampton Counties.
Small whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	E	Current - Centre and Venango Counties. Historic - Berks, Chester, Greene, Monroe, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties.

\* E = Endangered PE = Proposed for listing as endangered

\*\* Shortnose sturgeon is under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

The following is a partial list of species that no longer occur in Pennsylvania: gray wolf, eastern cougar, moose, bison, lynx, wolverine, passenger pigeon, Bachman's sparrow, common tern, lark sparrow, tiger salamander, mud sunfish, longjaw cisco, lake whitefish, butterfly mussel, American burying beetle, precious underwing moth, Kamei blue butterfly, American barberry, small white lady's-slipper, eastern prairie fringed orchid, Virginia spiraea, etc., etc.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION  
Division of Fisheries Management  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9616  
(814) 359-5110

July 28, 1992

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center  
Margaret DeLaura, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Ms. DeLaura:

RE: **America's Industrial Heritage Project, AMIN 110,  
West Overton Museums, Project Type 06, Westmoreland County,  
Pennsylvania**

I have examined the map accompanying your recent correspondence which shows the location for the proposed environmental assessment for the above referenced project.

Presently, none of the fishes, amphibians, or reptiles we list as endangered or threatened are known to occur at or in the immediate vicinity of this study area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clark N. Shiffer".

Clark N. Shiffer  
Herpetology & Endangered Species Coordinator

mam





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Forestry  
Forest Advisory Services  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

717/787-3444

August 11, 1992

Frederick C.K. Babb, Chief  
Western Pennsylvania Partnerships Branch  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Babb:

Re: PNDI Review of the Proposed America's Industrial Heritage  
Project Type 06 Schematic Design/Environmental Assessment,  
AMIN 110, West Overton Museums. Westmoreland County,  
Pennsylvania. K14 (DSC-TEA-WPP) AMIN 110 06.

Your request to review a location within the Connellsville Quadrangle for the presence of natural resources of special concern was processed by using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) information system. A review of PNDI in comparison with the proposed project site did not reveal any natural resources of special concern.

Be advised that legal authority for Pennsylvania's biological resources resides with three administrative agencies. The enclosure titled, PNDI Species List, outlines which species groups are managed by these agencies. Although, PNDI functions solely as an information system for natural resources of concern, the Pennsylvania Game Commission maintains the Fish and Wildlife Data Base which can provide data descriptive of all mammals and birds common to Pennsylvania.

PNDI is a site specific information system which describes significant natural resources of Pennsylvania. PNDI includes data descriptive of plant and animal species of special concern, exemplary natural communities and unique geological features. The information system is a cooperative project of the Department of Environmental Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files. However, the absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on-site. A field survey of any site may reveal previously unreported populations.

Frederick C.K. Babb

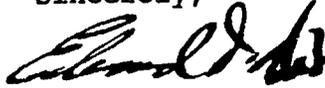
- 2 -

August 11, 1992

The PNDI project is funded largely through contributions to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund. This fund was established in 1982 by the Pennsylvania Legislature to provide support for the research and conservation of significant natural resources within the Commonwealth.

Please phone this office if you should have questions pertinent to this response, PNDI or the Department of Environmental Resources plant program.

Sincerely,



Edward T. Dix, Botanist  
Div. of Forest Advisory Services  
Bureau of Forestry  
Dept. of Environmental Resources

Enclosures

cc: Charles Bier, PNDI-West

PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY

SPECIES LISTS

The statutory authority for Pennsylvania's animals and plants resides with three separate agencies. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has the responsibility for management of the Commonwealth's native wild plants. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission is responsible for management of fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic organisms within the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has the responsibility for managing the state's wild birds and mammals.

For information on current official status for a species, please consult the appropriate agency. Requests for information should be directed to:

PLANTS and  
PNDI - general

Plant Program Manager  
Pa. Department of Environmental Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
Forest Advisory Services  
P. O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552  
(717)787-3444

FISH, REPTILES,  
AMPHIBIANS,  
AQUATIC ORGANISMS

Endangered Species & Herpetology  
Coordinator  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission  
Bureau of Fisheries and Engineering  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814)359-5113

BIRDS and MAMMALS

Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Bureau of Wildlife Management  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
(717)787-5529

Invertebrate species are recommended for inclusion in PNDI by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey. For information concerning invertebrates with federal status contact:

Endangered Species Specialist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
One Gateway Center, Suite 700  
Newton Corner, MA 02158  
(617)965-5100

Thank you for your request. Feel free to contact PNDI if we can be of further assistance.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:	
ADMINISTRATION	787-5670
AUTOMOTIVE AND	
PROCUREMENT DIVISION	787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION	787-2084
PERSONNEL DIVISION	787-7836
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION	787-6286
LAW ENFORCEMENT	787-5740
LAND MANAGEMENT	787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION	787-6568
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION	
SYSTEMS	787-4076

July 30, 1992

Branch Chief
Management Assistant
Studio Leader I
Studio Leader II
Studio Leader III
Admn. Asst.
Team Captain
Branch Secretary
Project File
PIFS
Other
<i>[Signature]</i>

Mr. Frederick C.K. Babb  
National Park Service  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
PO Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Babb:

In response to your request for information services, we are providing the enclosed printouts from the Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base. This information was provided for species occurring at or near the West Overton Museums, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

We have record of the upland sandpiper occurring near your project area. However, we have no record of this species occurring close enough to your study area to be impacted by your proposed project. Additional comments concerning this data search are included on the following page.

If you have any questions or require assistance interpreting this printout, please contact Ms. Bullock or Mr. Hardisky at (717) 787-1570.

Very truly yours,

G.J. Grabowicz, Director  
Bureau of Land Management

## Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base

The following species information was generated from the Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base for your use in determining species likely to occur in your project area.

This information was provided upon request and should not be viewed as an official review or opinion of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Species lists generated for this request should be viewed as likely or probable occurrence lists that might warrant further investigation. These lists are based on known, documented species occurrence within the counties, watershed, land use, and/or habitat types specified in your request.

Information pertaining to aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates contained in these lists is based solely on literature sources and expert opinion. Use of the aquatic species information contained in this report should be coordinated with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission for compliance with their standards and data sources.

This report does not contain information on plants. For plant species information in your project area, please contact the Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission considers wetlands critical and unique wildlife habitat. If your proposed project is in the vicinity of wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water, please be aware that any impact to these areas requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Note: Bird species occurrence is based upon recorded sightings and may not imply nesting activity or year-round residence.

### Contents

- A. Project Area Endangered and Threatened Species List
- B. Potential Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species List for Project Area
- C. Land Use/Cover Type Table

Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
LIST A: Endangered and Threatened Species  
\*\* West Overton Museums \*\*  
Connellsville Quadrangle  
29 JUL 1992

Note: The purpose of the following list is to identify endangered or threatened species which occur or are likely to occur on a designated site. We have record of the following species occurring in or near your project area. Their occurrence may depend on season, habitat type, and individual movements or migration patterns. Field surveys may be required to determine whether these species exist on your project area. If an endangered/threatened bird or mammal survey is planned for a project site, please contact the Division of Wildlife Data Base, Pennsylvania Game Commission (717-787-1570).

Common Name.....	Scientific Name.....	Status.....
Sandpiper, Upland	Bartramia longicauda	PA Threatened

Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
 LIST B: Potential Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species  
 (Includes Accidental and Migrant Species)  
 \*\* West Overton Museums \*\*  
 Westmoreland County  
 29 JUL 1992

Note: The purpose of the following list is to identify endangered, threatened, and special concern species which may potentially occur within a designated area. This list includes species which may exist on your project area as well as migrating and accidental species. This information is based on records of these animals inhabiting specific habitat types within Westmoreland County.

Status.....	No. of Species Listed
PA / Fed Endangered	2
PA Endangered	6
PA Threatened	9
Candidate Species	31
 Total Species Listed:	 48

Appendix N: Letters Regarding Threatened and Endangered Species

Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
 LIST B: Potential Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species  
 (Includes Accidental and Migrant Species)

\*\* West Overton Museums \*\*

Westmoreland County

29 JUL 1992

Common Name.....	Scientific Name.....	Status.....
Eagle, Bald	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	PA / Fed Endangered
Falcon, Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	PA / Fed Endangered
Snake, Kirtland's	<i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i>	PA Endangered
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	PA Endangered
Owl, Short-eared	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	PA Endangered
Rail, King	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	PA Endangered
Tern, Black	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	PA Endangered
Shrew, Least	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	PA Endangered
Snake, Rough Green	<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	PA Threatened
Bittern, American	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	PA Threatened
Bittern, Least	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	PA Threatened
Egret, Great	<i>Casmerodius albus egretta</i>	PA Threatened
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	PA Threatened
Heron, Yellow-crowned Night	<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>	PA Threatened
Sandpiper, Upland	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	PA Threatened
Myotis, Eastern Small-footed	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	PA Threatened
Woodrat, Eastern	<i>Neotoma floridana</i>	PA Threatened
Harrier, Northern	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Owl, Common Barn	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Snipe, Common	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Sparrow, Henslow's	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Warbler, Prothonotary	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Cottontail, New England	<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	Candidate - At Risk
Coot, American	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Candidate - Rare
Coshawk, Northern	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Candidate - Rare
Grebe, Pied-billed	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Candidate - Rare
Grosbeak, Blue	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	Candidate - Rare
Tanager, Summer	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Candidate - Rare
Teal, Green-winged	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Candidate - Rare
Thrush, Swainson's	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Candidate - Rare
Bat, Silver-haired	<i>Lasiorycteris noctivagans</i>	Candidate - Rare
Squirrel, Fox	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Candidate - Rare

Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
 LIST B: Potential Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species  
 (Includes Accidental and Migrant Species)  
 \*\* West Overton Museums \*\*  
 Westmoreland County  
 29 JUL 1992

Common Name.....	Scientific Name.....	Status.....
Bobwhite, Northern	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Crossbill, Red	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Duck, Ruddy	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Egret, Cattle	<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Nighthawk, Common	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Owl, Long-eared	<i>Otus asio</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Owl, Northern Saw-whet	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Pintail, Northern	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Shoveler, Northern	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Wigeon, American	<i>Anas americana</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Weasel, Least	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Candidate - Undeterm
Rattlesnake, Timber	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Candidate Species

Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
Endangered & Threatened Species Land Use/Cover Type List  
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29 JUL 1992

<u>Land Use/Cover Type</u>	<u>No. Species</u>
Urban Land	14
Agricultural Land - Cropland/Pasture	31
Agricultural Land - Orchards/Vineyards/Nurseries	12
Agricultural Land - Confined Feeding Operations	4
Rangeland - Herbaceous	22
Rangeland - Shrub/Brush	19
Rangeland - Mixed	14
Forest Land - Deciduous	31
Forest Land - Evergreen	27
Forest Land - Mixed	28
Water - Streams/Rivers/Canals	21
Water - Lakes	20
Water - Reservoirs	18
Water - Estuaries	16
Wetland - Forested	34
Wetland - Nonforested	29
Barren Land	9



Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base  
 Endangered & Threatened Species Land Use/Cover Type List  
 \*\* West Overton Museums \*\*  
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 29 JUL 1992

Species	Feeding Behavior	*Stat.	Land Use/Cover Type														
			Urban.. (10's)	Crops (21)	Orchd (22)	Feed (23)	Range (31)	Shrub (32)	Mix (33)	Forest (41)	Decid (42)	Conif (43)	Stream (51)	Lake Reserv (52)	Water. Bay (54)	Water.. Forest (61)	Met Ind. Non-For (62)
Pintail, Northern	X	H		X				X				X	X	X	X		X
Rail, King	X	E		X								X	X	X	X		X
Sandpiper, Upland	X	T						X		X							
Shoveler, Northern	X	H							X			X	X	X	X		X
Snipe, Common	X	U		X				X		X							X
Sparrow, Henslow's	X	U						X									X
Tanager, Summer	X	V								X							X
Teal, Green-winged	X	V						X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Tern, Black	X	E							X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Thrush, Swainson's	X	V							X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Warbler, Prothonotary	X	U							X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Whip-poor-will	X	H		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Higeon, American	X	H		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Bat, Silver-haired	X	V		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Bobcat	X	U		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Cottontail, New England	X	U		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Myotis, Eastern Small-footed	X	T		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Shrew, Least	X	E		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Squirrel, Fox	X	V		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Weasel, Least	X	H		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X
Woodrat, Eastern	X	T		X				X		X		X	X	X	X		X

\* Status Codes: E = Endangered; T = Threatened. Candidate Classifications: U = At Risk; V = Rare; W = Undetermined Status; Y = Unspecified.

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1888-1892.

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West Overton Village  
Scottsdale, PA 15683



