



Historic Nomination Overview

Historic Review Commission

October 7, 2026

<https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Business-Development/City-Planning/Historic-Preservation-Program>

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PITTSBURGH**

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 [City Planning](#) /
 [Historic Preservation](#)

Historic Preservation

Pittsburgh's cultural heritage is the City's legacy, formed by its people, place, neighborhoods, buildings, landscapes, objects, and stories -- everything that helped to shape Pittsburgh, literally and figuratively, from the beginning. Cultural and historic resources have a significant impact on Pittsburgh's character. They are valuable, non-replaceable assets that contribute to a unique and distinct sense of place.

City Planning's Historic Preservation work is guided by PreservePGH, the Pittsburgh Cultural Heritage Plan, completed in 2012. PreservePGH's vision statement:

In the 21st century, Pittsburgh's distinct character and culture will be preserved in ways that contribute to a high quality of life. The City will offer a balance of tradition and innovation, preservation and new construction, environmental sensitivity and continued use of resources. Pittsburgh's place in history will be admired and reflected for centuries to come - in the City's historic structures - in the waters of the three rivers - in the materials of modern buildings - in the hearts and minds of all Pittsburghers.

Learn more: Projects and Initiatives

Read PreservePGH

PGH 2050

Contact Historic Preservation Program staff :
Email: historicpreservation@pittsburghpa.gov
Location: 412 Boulevard of the Allies, Suite 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Historic Designations and Districts

Search for City Historic Designated Landmarks and Districts

Apply for Historic Review

How to apply for a work to a historic property and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

Apply for Historic Designation

Apply to designate an individual landmark or district

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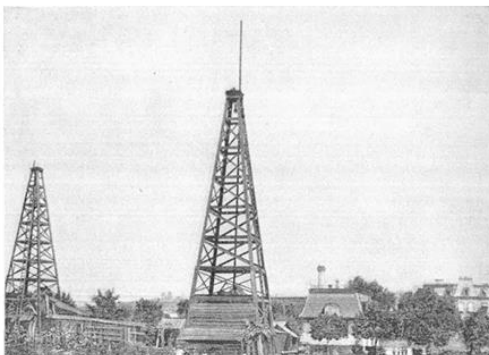
What is a nomination?

A local historic nomination is a formal application submitted to officially designate a property, structure, site, or district as a protected local landmark. The purpose of this designation is to safeguard the property's historical, architectural, and cultural significance under local preservation codes.

- #1-6 Nomination Form: Address, Ownership, Classification, Nominator Info.
- #7: Description
- #8: History
- #9: Significance
- #10 Integrity
- #11 Consent of Property Owners
- #12 Photographs of Property
- #13 List of Supporting Documents

What an application looks like

Westinghouse Park Nomination



Westinghouse Park City of Pittsburgh Historic Landmark Nomination

Prepared by Preservation Pittsburgh & The Westinghouse Legacy



7. Description

Solitude/Westinghouse Park is contained within an approximately 10-acre tract. Within this property, George Westinghouse had constructed a large home and stable/laboratory building within a planned landscape garden that included a greenhouse and potting shed, carriage ways, walkways, stone walls, stone pillars, and an elaborate stone stairway. Other site features include brick tunnels (connecting the house and laboratory as well as the house and railroad station), the location of gas wells, and a water well. Today, landscape features such as large mature trees, the carriage ways, walkways, stone walls, stone pillars, and stone stairways remain as part of the modern Westinghouse Park. Modern park features include a one-story concrete recreation building, an asphalt basketball court, and a playground area.

8. History

Site History – Pre-Construction

The land where Westinghouse Park would later stand was originally connected to several Native American tribes that changed over time. The Adena Tribe, the Hopewell Tribe, the Monongahela People were the original inhabitants of the land and, post-European contact, were later joined by refugees from other tribes, such as the Delaware, Shawnee, and Iroquois. Ultimately European colonists would settle this land. When Westinghouse built Solitude in 1872, this area of the City was known as Homewood and it had been recently annexed to Pittsburgh.

Site History – Solitude Construction to Demolition

When Westinghouse built Solitude in 1872, this area of the City was known as Homewood and it had been recently annexed to Pittsburgh. At that time, Homewood encompassed lands on both sides of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which had been constructed in 1852 (and is now the Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway). The railroad provided an opportunity for Pittsburgh's wealthiest families to live in large-landed woodland estates on the outskirts of the city where they could still maintain easy access into downtown. Homewood was a "beautiful, broad, green valley of woods, swamps and fields...a pastoral paradise" (Sapolsky and Roselli 1987). At that time, these country estates, with their live-in servants, gardeners, cooks, and nurses, were becoming more numerous on both sides of the tracks; however, even then, lands north and south of the tracks were beginning to develop in distinct ways. While there were a few large-landed estates north of the tracks, a compact grid of city streets and several residential plans-of-lots had already been laid out there, though the vast majority remained undeveloped and unoccupied. In comparison, the area south of the tracks where Solitude was located was more populated, but the majority of the lands were still occupied by the large-landed estates owned by the City's wealthiest industrialists and manufacturers. No grid of city streets had been established south of the tracks though Penn Avenue was present along with several of the major north/south roads that exist today, such as Dallas, Murland, Lang, and Homewood Avenues (Hopkins 1872; 1880).

By 1880, some of the lots in the city grid that had been laid out north of the tracks had begun to be settled while a less-compact street grid had been added south of the tracks and a few of those large-landed estates had begun to be divided into plans-of-lots. A cursory review of census records from 1880 reveals that Homewood had a mix of working class, middle class, and upper-class families. The majority of the families were white and Pennsylvania-born with a small number of Black and immigrant families interspersed throughout the neighborhood. Many of the working-class Black men were laborers; only a few were servants. The majority of the immigrants came from Ireland and England. Most of the Irish immigrants were laborers or servants while the English immigrants tended to hold more skilled jobs, such as a brick molder, stone contractor, and an engineer at a lead works (U. S. Federal Census 1880).



Photo 1. Westinghouse Park, Stone Entrance Pillars. M. Falcone. May, 2024.



Photo 2. Westinghouse Park, Footpath looking Northwest.

Criteria for Designation

Per 1101.04, Criteria for Designation, a nomination must meet at least one of the following criteria in order to be designated a historic structure. This property is nominated as meeting the following criteria:

1. Historic Events
2. Significant Persons
3. Architectural Excellence
4. Prominent Designer/Craftsperson
5. Urban Design
6. Archaeology
7. Cultural/Social History
8. Neighborhood Patterns
9. Thematic Representation
10. Visual Prominence

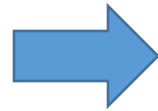
Integrity

Integrity of Historic Structures, Historic Districts, Historic Sites, and Historic Objects. Any area, property, site, structure or object that meets any one (1) or more of the criteria listed above shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration.

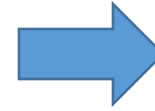
Process

**Historic Review
Commission**
*Recommendation to
City Council*

**Planning
Commission**
*Recommendation to
City Council*



City Council
Public Hearing



City Council
Vote

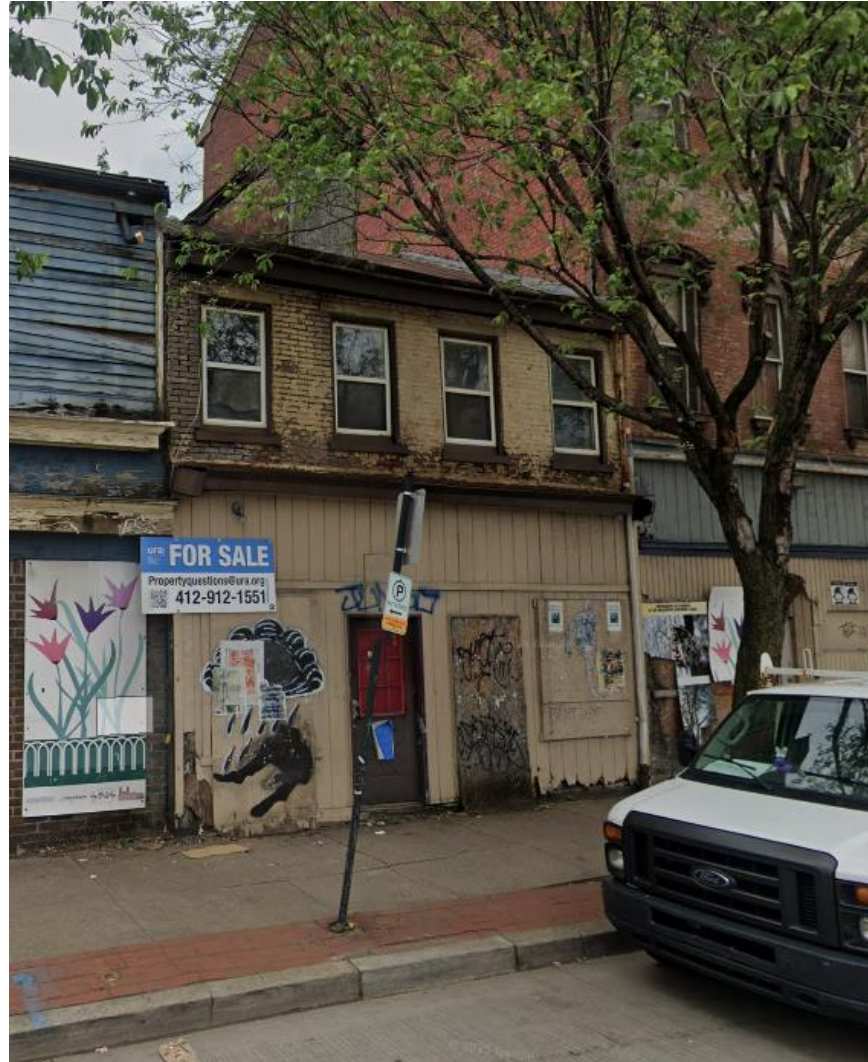
HRC's Role

- Determination of Reasonable Cause
- Public Hearing
- Recommendation to City Council

Council

- Regular Meeting – Read and referred
- Standing Committee – Held for public hearing
- Public Hearing
- Standing Committee – Affirmatively recommended
- Regular Meeting – Passed Finally

Hefty House





Thank you!