

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Forks of the Ohio

AND/OR COMMON

Forks of the Ohio

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER "The Golden Triangle," Point Park

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

multiple

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Allegheny

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
___BUILDING(S)	___PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	___YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John J. Grove, Point Park Coordinator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

STREET & NUMBER

3018 One Oliver Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A few years ago the point of land on which Forts Duquesne and Pitt had stood was buried beneath commercial buildings and railroad tracks. Fortunately, this situation has disappeared thanks to the development of the new Point State Park. The Point area has been virtually cleared of intrusions which at one time buried the fort sites. The railroad yards and commercial buildings are gone; although one expressway still traverses the point. The site of Fort Pitt was the subject of intensive archaeological investigation in 1942-43, and sufficient underground evidence was found to define with considerable accuracy the outlines and features of the fort. The original lower ramparts of the music bastion have been excavated and made a permanent exhibit. (See photograph) Interpretive markers are located on the south side of this exhibit. Just west of the expressway, or the southwest section of the fort, The Fort Pitt Museum has been constructed on the original site of the Monongahela Bastion. The Museum is an impressive interpretive facility. In the main lobby is a 20 feet (in diameter) scale model of the fort. Earphones, located around the display, relate the story of the area while spotlights point out the specific sites. The interior of the museum relates the story of the region during Indian, French, English, and American occupation.

Located to the north of the museum entrance stands a small brick blockhouse owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This is the only structure original to the point.

At the extreme tip of the point has been constructed a gigantic fountain. This fountain measures about 80 feet in diameter and has a spray of 60 feet in height. Typical of any park, there are benches located throughout. On either river side are stands from which, during the summer months, visitors view floating concerts. The park is maintained in immaculate condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1754-1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the middle of the 18th century through the early 19th century, the Forks of the Ohio represented the strategic key from the east to the Ohio Valley and the vast territory drained by the Mississippi. Control of this key point was the objective in French, English, and American struggles for North America.

At this point of land where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio, grew the bustling frontier town of Pittsburgh, the first permanent English settlement west of the Appalachian mountains in the present United States. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the town at the Forks of the Ohio was the major point of entry for the mass of settlers pushing westward into the Ohio and Upper Mississippi Valleys.

Early in 1754 the first outpost at the Forks of the Ohio was begun by American colonials, on ground first chosen and described by young Lt. Col. George Washington. Shortly thereafter it was seized by the French and named Fort Duquesne. It was captured in 1758 by a British and Colonial force during the French and Indian War. Its fall was a decisive blow to the French defense of the Ohio country. Shortly thereafter the British erected Fort Pitt on higher ground a few hundred yards away from the older fort.

HISTORY

Control of the strategically important confluence of the Monongahela and the Allegheny Rivers to form the Ohio, was a decisive element in the climactic struggle between England and France for the control of North America. The site was also of great importance in the American Revolution and in the opening of the western frontier. The first outpost on the site was begun by English colonies early in 1754 on ground first chosen and described by Lieutenant George Washington. On April 17, 1754, the unfinished fort was seized by a force of French and Indians. The French completed the post and named it Duquesne. Thus the site saw one of the first acts of hostility in the final American war between England and France.

Duquesne gave the French control of the Ohio River and was the keystone of their defense line on the western frontier of the Colonies. George Washington, with a small force, was on the way to the Forks of the Ohio when he learned that the French had captured the unfinished American fort. He halted his advance and a short time later surprised and defeated a

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert, G. Dallas, The Frontier Forts of Western Pennsylvania, vol. 2 of Report of the Commission to locate the Site of the Frontier of Western Pennsylvania, (Harrisburg, 1916).

Darlington, Mary G., Fort Pitt and Letters from the Frontier (Pittsburgh, 1892).

Whitehead, Cortlandt, The Capture of Fort Duquesne, (Philadelphia, 1898).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 36 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 7 | 5 | 8, 3 | 6, 6, 0 | 4, 4 | 7, 7 | 2, 2, 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1, 7 | 5 | 8, 4 | 2, 2, 0 | 4, 4 | 7, 7 | 2, 2, 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 7 | 5 | 8, 4 | 2, 0, 0 | 4, 4 | 7, 6 | 7, 0, 0 |

D | 1, 7 | 5 | 8, 3 | 6, 6, 0 | 4, 4 | 7, 6 | 7, 0, 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuance Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

5/15/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Landmark

Designated: 10/9/60.

TITLE

DATE

date

Boundary Certified:

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Joseph S. Mendinghall 11/24/78

Conrad White 5-17-76
John A. ... 7/24/86
Acting Director/OAHP

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

small French scouting party. Thus were fired the first shots in the Seven Years War, called in America the French and Indian War. A short time later Washington, himself, was attacked and forced to capitulate at Fort Necessity.

Fort Duquesne was also the objective of British General Braddock's ill-fated campaign in 1755. In 1758 British and Colonial forces under the leadership of General John Forbes, hacked their way through the wilderness to find Fort Duquesne destroyed and abandoned by the weakened French, who had been deserted by their Indian allies. The fall of Fort Duquesne was decisive in the decline of French power in the vital western frontier south of the Great Lakes.

Realizing belatedly the importance of this tip of land as the open road to the vast interior of the continent; and the nation controlling this natural highway controlled the future of the land built their most substantial and costly stronghold in America. Approximately 200' from the original site of Fort Duquesne, Fort Pitt was named in honor of the English Prime Minister. A few years later during the bloody Indian uprising, known now as Pontiac's Conspiracy, Fort Pitt was one of the few frontier forts able to hold out against the Indians. A relief column met the Indians at Bushy Run about twenty miles from Fort Pitt, defeating them and raising the siege of the fort. Fort Pitt became an outpost of unquestioned merit in the opening of the western frontier, offering protection to the settlers and traders who were pushing into the Ohio country. The town of Pittsburgh grew under the shelter of the fort. Fort Pitt was occupied by troops during the Revolution and was finally abandoned in 1790. The vast importance of the Forks of the Ohio is attested to by the vigorous efforts of both the French and British to seize and hold this site, and by the rapid spread of English settlement which occurred under the protection of the fort.

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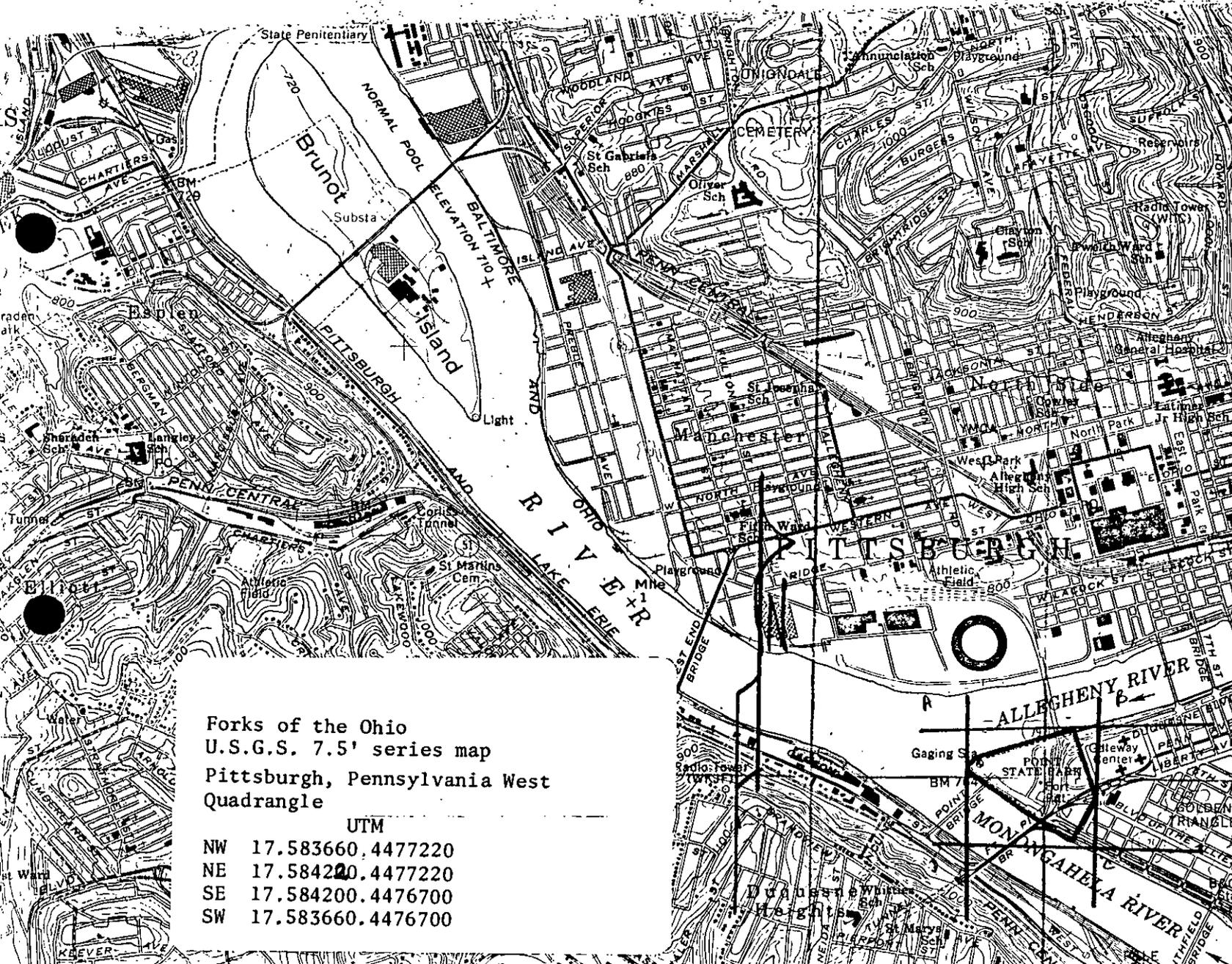
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

From the point of intersection of the western curb of Commonwealth Place extended to the Allegheny River, proceed in a line along the west curb of Commonwealth Place to a point, if extended would intersect the Monongahela River; thence proceed in a northwesterly direction around the point; thence in a northeasterly direction to the point of origin. This area contains approximately 36 acres. The boundaries are indicated on an accompanying map titled Illustrative Site Plan Golden Triangle 1980. The elevated road system, viewing stands, fountains and similar modern features within the boundary do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.



Forks of the Ohio
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania West
 Quadrangle

UTM

NW	17.583660	4477220
NE	17.584200	4477220
SE	17.584200	4476700
SW	17.583660	4476700

4480

4479

27°30'

4478

WILKINSBURG 7.5 MI

380

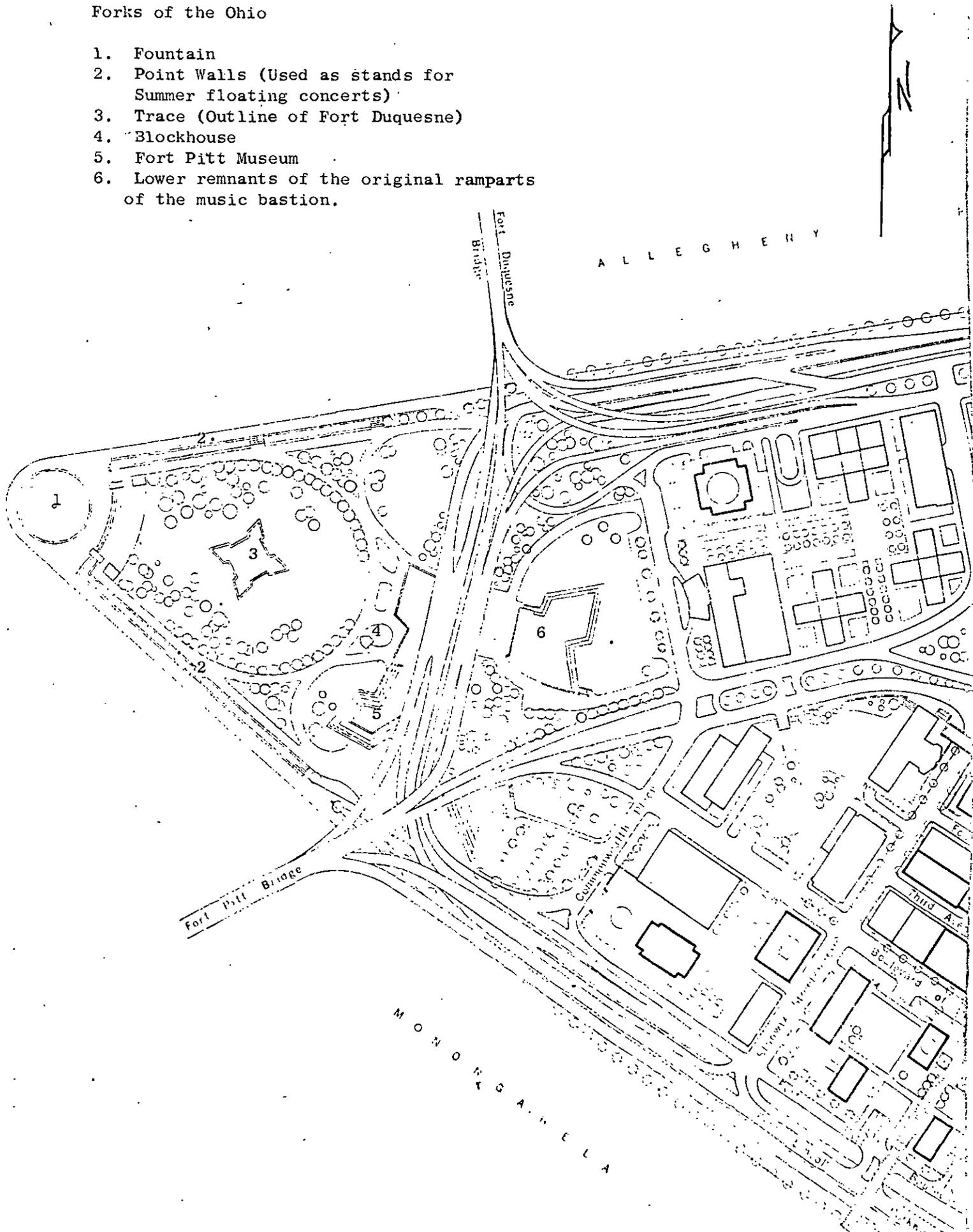
(PITTSBURGH EAST)
 5064 IV NW

ETNA 1.1 MI

P.A. TURNPIKE INTERCHANGE 6.12 MI

Forks of the Ohio

1. Fountain
2. Point Walls (Used as stands for Summer floating concerts)
3. Trace (Outline of Fort Duquesne)
4. Blockhouse
5. Fort Pitt Museum
6. Lower remnants of the original ramparts of the music bastion.



UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Pennsylvania		2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XI Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE The Forks of the Ohio (Site of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt, Bouquet's Blockhouse)		4. APPROX. ACREAGE 36 acres	
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) "The Golden Triangle", Point Park, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania			
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Point Park owned and administered by State of Pennsylvania; Bouquet Blockhouse owned and administered by Allegheny County Chapter, N.P.S.			

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)
The point of land where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio constitutes a site of surpassing significance in the story of American expansion westward from the Appalachian Mountains. From the mid-18th century through the early years of the 19th, the Forks of the Ohio was the strategic key to the Ohio Valley and the vast territory drained by the Upper Mississippi. Control of this key point was a major strategic objective in the struggle for North America, and for possession of the Forks men of three nations, the French, British and American, fought and died. Within the shelter of the fort grew up the bustling frontier town of Pittsburgh, "the first permanent English settlement west of the mountains in the present United States" In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the town at the Forks of the Ohio was the major point of entry for the waves of settlement pushing into the Ohio and Upper Mississippi Valleys, and with good reason the site won its recognition as the "Gateway to the West."

Features and Condition of the Site

A few years ago the point of land on which Forts Duquesne and Pitt had stood was buried beneath commercial buildings and railroad tracks. Happily, this situation is disappearing, thanks to development of the new Point State Park. The "Point" area has been virtually cleared of artificial intrusions which at one time buried the fort sites. The railroad yards and commercial buildings are gone although portions of the site are still obscured by heavily travelled roadways which give access to the Point and Manchester bridges over the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers, respectively. The approximate site of Fort Duquesne is partially covered by bridge ramps, but the in-progress relocation of the bridges to a point higher up on the Triangle will free the site for full investigation. The site of Fort Pitt was the subject of intensive archaeological investigation in 1942-43, and sufficient underground evidence was found to define with considerable accuracy the outlines and features of the fort. The brick ~~Blockhouse is in good condition and is open to the public.~~ (cont.)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
G. Dallas Albert, The Frontier Forts of Western Pennsylvania, vol. 2 of Report of the Commission to Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, 1916).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.I.A.S., etc.) John P. Cowan, "Fort Pitt, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Ms. Report, National Park Service, 1937); Mary C. Darlington, <u>Fort Pitt and Letters from the Frontier</u> (Pittsburgh, 1892); "Part One of the Report of the Point Park Commission," (Mimeo., Pittsburgh, 1943); "Report on Forests and Waters: Land and			
10. PHOTOGRAPHS * ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Park (State)	13. DATE OF VISIT 3/25/58
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)		15. TITLE Historic Sites Historian	16. DATE 2/11/59

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as,

STATE **Pennsylvania** NAME(S) OF SITE **The Forks of the Ohio (Site of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt, Bouquet's Blockhouse)**

7. Importance and Description (cont'd.)

Development of the Point includes the establishment of a 36-acre state park and reconstruction of one of the fort's bastions. The park will include a historical museum on the fort site and the area will be planted in trees of the variety common to the virgin wilderness which surrounded the Forks of the Ohio 200 years ago. The Point State Park is a project of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters.

9. Reports and Studies (cont'd.)

People," (Brochure of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, n.p., 1958).