

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

1. Name

RECEIVED

historic

AUG 1 1981

and/or common Deffenbaugh Site, 36FA57

PH & MC
Historic Preservation

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Nicholson Twp.

vicinity of

congressional district 22

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Fayette

code 051

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
 - being considered

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name C. W. Balling

street & number R.D. 2

city, town Smithfield

vicinity of

state Penna.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Uniontown

state Penna.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<u>X</u> original site	
___ good	___ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	___ moved	date <u>10/8</u>
<u>X</u> fair	___ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Deffenbaugh Site, 36FA57, is a Monongahela village site located [redacted] within Fayette County, Pennsylvania. [redacted] The general area is typical of the foothill topography of the Unglaciaded Allegheny Plateau of southwestern Pennsylvania. The most westerly ridge of the Allegheny Mountains - Chestnut Ridge - begins to rise in elevation 5 miles east of the site. The nearest source of water is a spring located some 200' south-east of the site and it is the source of an unnamed tributary [redacted] which in turn flows into Georges Creek. The latter flows west to empty into the Monongahela River. Georges Creek is approximately 1 1/2 miles south of the site.

The site first received formal archaeological attention from local amateur George Fisher who designated the site as D-5. A burial of a child, excavated by Fisher, was reported by Engberg (1931:155-156) in an article entitled "Algonkian Sites in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties." The burial had been covered by a slab and was accompanied by forty turkey bone beads in the area of the waist.

According to his field notes, Fisher did not spend much time at Deffenbaugh although he did consider the past occupants to be of "high culture" based on the 37" nicely worked bone beads around the waste" of the child burial. Deffenbaugh was recorded in 1960 by Carnegie Museum Field Associate Donald Tanner. A small quantity of artifacts were surface collected at that time and these have since been donated to Carnegie Museum. They include shell tempered body sherds, mussel shell fragments, several fragments of bone refuse, 2 dicordals and a chert scraper. In June, 1965, Tanner test excavated the site and determined that it had a diameter of approximately 240'. He also noted that the site had, in the past, been bisected by a tramway right-of-way.

The September, 1980 visit to the site by the survey crew affirmed the presence of the right-of-way that would have severely disturbed that portion of the site effected. This elongated, elevated strip is now covered by small trees, brush and weeds. The uneffected portions of the site to the east and west are now utilized for agriculture although, in 1980, both were in pasture. The present owners, the Ballings, raise and train horses on the land and will continue to plow and plant in the area covered by the site.

Fayette County, Pennsylvania has been adversely effected by surface coal mining and the preservation and/or mitigation of prehistoric sites has become increasingly difficult. Sites like Deffenbaugh are thus prime candidates for nomination to the National Register of Historical Places.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although there has been a continuing program of Monongahela site investigation especially by Carnegie Museum of Natural History archaeologists, no sites in eastern Fayette County has received attention. Further to the east, in Somerset County, a phase of Monongahela has been recognized by this author based on artifact attributes, especially ceramics. The Somerset Phase of Monongahela can be distinguished by a high percentage of cordmarked, limestone tempered pottery with a minor attribute of added rim strips that seem to have a regional Middle Appalachian distribution. Settlement pattern attributes are, however, Monongahela in type with the typical circular house ring enclosed by a stockade which in turn, surrounds an "open" plaza. Houses were round and had an attached appendage that may have been utilized for food storage. Two and possible three clusters of village sites were recognized for Somerset County and these were spatially separated by at least 25 miles. Whether or not other village clusters existed to the west of Somerset County in present-day Fayette County is not known due to the lack of concentrated survey and investigation.

Deffenbaugh could be related to other locally known Monongahela village sites. Site 36FA63 is located a little over 3 miles to the southeast and 36FA22 is 3 3/8 miles south. Both are upland Monongahela village sites like Deffenbaugh but whether or not they were occupied by the same village group as suggested for the separate Somerset County clusters is not known. Artifact samples and temporal placement using C-14 dating would be required to determine the intra-village relationships. Thus, at present, the Monongahela village sites of central and eastern Fayette County are little understood. None are represented by museum curated collections so that material culture comparisons cannot be made. All of these village sites occupy upland locales and the nearby floodplains along Georges Creek were apparently ignored. Whether these were considered to be too spatially limited or too prone to flooding is not known but the incidence of upland siting, as is the case with Deffenbaugh and neighboring sites, would seem to be more than accidental. The high incidence of upland siting of Monongahela village sites is believed to have been the result of internecine warfare. Perhaps, central Fayette County as occupied by Deffenbaugh and other upland sites was an area of defensive refuge as was hypothesized for at least one portion of Somerset County to the east. There the upland village sites could be recognized for their defensive posture by the high incidence of burials on sites that were otherwise unproductive of artifacts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Engberg, Robert M.

1931 Algonkian Sites of Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, Penna.
Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. Vol. 14 (3):155-156

Fisher, George n.d. Unpublished manuscript on file at CMNH

10. Geographical Data


Acree of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Smithfield 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 
Zone Easting Northing

B 
Zone Easting Northing

C 

D 

E 

F 

G 

H 

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Item Continuation Sheet

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

state PA code NP county PA code PA

state PA code NP county PA code PA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard L. George, Field Archaeologist

organization Carnegie Museum of Natural History date 7/31/81

street & number 4400 Forbes Avenue telephone 361-0500

city or town Pittsburgh state Penna.

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Deffenbaugh Site, 36FA57 Item number 10

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Based on 1965 test excavations and field observation the 240' diameter Deffenbaugh site occupies a 1140' saddle between hills to the north and south. The 1140' contour line, somewhat inaccurately traverses the site from southwest to northeast. The area of the site is more realistically level at 1140' with elevations gradually falling off to the east, west and south while rising to the north. The northern boundary of the site is closer to the 1200' hill than is the southern one.