



A visitor's guide to ...

***Ten Historic Places in
Westmoreland County***

... celebrating the semiquincentennial!

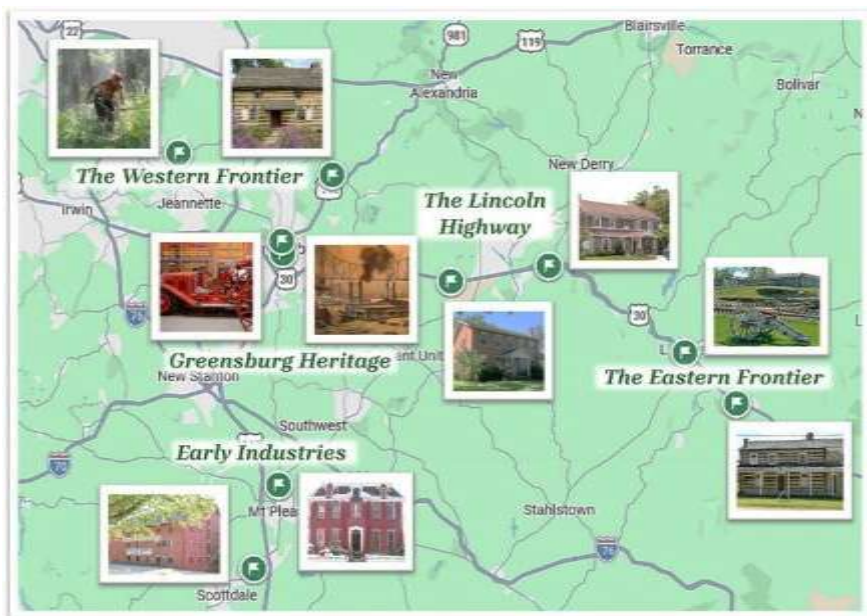


*Enjoy this Special Semiquincentennial
Westmoreland Ramble!*

Ten Historic Places in Westmoreland County

Drive time varies, depending on your starting location.

This year's Westmoreland Ramble features ten historic sites in Westmoreland County organized into five individual day trips. No specific starting point will be given. Instead, we will provide a brief history plus visitor information and special events. Site websites should always be checked before planning a visit for updates.



Note – Many of the sites featured in this guide can be visited for free by borrowing museum passes from your local Westmoreland County public library. Several are always free or free this year with donations welcome: Historic Hanna's Town, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Museum, the Samuel Warden House, and St. Xavier Nature Preserve.

Trip One – The Western Frontier



Bushy Run Battlefield

This 233-acre state park was the site of a major conflict between Native Americans and British forces in 1763. The uprising known today as Pontiac's War threatened the westward expansion of the British Empire after their conflict with the French ended. British forces under the command of Colonel Henry Bouquet won a decisive victory and re-opened the road west to Fort Pitt. A museum displays art, artifacts, and historical reconstructions.

Location: 1253 Bushy Run Rd (Rt. 993), 1.5 miles east of Harrison City.

Accessibility: Handicap parking is available and there is ADA access to and inside the self-guided museum.

Hours: Wed-Sat 9-5 in summer; check website for other months.

Special Events: Battle of Bushy Run Re-enactment Aug 1-2, 2026

Admission: Free with library pass; otherwise \$5 or less

For more information:
bushyrunbattlefield.com/



Historic Hanna's Town

Established in 1773, Hanna's Town served as the first seat of government for Westmoreland County which at that time included most of the state's southwest region. The original town was destroyed during the Revolutionary War but has been reconstructed here with several historic log buildings. A modern Education Center serves as the home of the Westmoreland Historical Society.

Location: 809 Forbes Trail Road, 0.5 miles west of Rt. 119, south of the modern-day village of Hannastown.

Accessibility: Handicap parking is available and there is ADA access to and inside the Education Center.

Hours: Dawn to dusk starting May 2; Education Center Thur-Sat 10-4.

Special Events: Antiques & Collectibles Markets on select dates

Admission: Free with library pass; donations welcome.

For more information:
www.westmorelandhistory.org/

Trip Two – Greensburg Heritage



The Westmoreland Museum of American Art

Established by Greensburg native Mary Marchand Woods in 1949, the Museum quickly acquired a major collection of American art, with a strong focus on Pennsylvania. Subsequent gifts of art and architecture from the Scaife Family enlarged the collection and a new wing was added in 2015. The museum now features special galleries, educational spaces, outdoor plazas, a gift shop and café.

Location: 221 North Main Street in Greensburg, just north of bridge.

Accessibility: Handicap parking is available in both lots with ADA access throughout the museum.

Hours: Wed-Sun 10 am to 5 pm; free tours on Saturday from 1 to 2 pm.

Special Events: American Landscape Exhibitions in 2026

Admission: Donations welcome.

For More Information:
<http://thewestmoreland.org/>



Greensburg Volunteer Firefighters Museum

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Museum was established in 1969 at the old freight station behind Greensburg City Hall. Now at their fourth location, the museum was a dream of Greensburg firefighters dating back to the late 1950s. The collection of equipment includes fire wagons from 1805 and 1825, as well as more modern trucks and firefighting equipment.

Location: 406 South Pennsylvania Avenue just off Rt 119 in Greensburg

Accessibility: Parking is available near the building and there is a ramp providing access to the museum.

Hours: Second Tuesday of every month 6 to 8 pm and fourth Saturday of every month, 9 am to noon

Special Events: tours available by appointment.

Admission: Donations welcome.

For More Information:
<https://gbgfire.com/museum/>

Trip Three – Early Industries



West Overton Village

The historic village of West Overton, founded by the Overholt family, was the birthplace of coal, coke & steel magnate Henry Clay Frick whose daughter Helen purchased the property as a memorial to her father. Today, West Overton Village preserves 19 historic buildings, including the 1838 Overholt Homestead, a museum, and a modern educational distillery that produces artisanal rye whiskey.

Location: 109 West Overton Road, just west of Rt. 119 near Buckeye PA.

Accessibility: Main floor of the museum is ADA accessible, but many historic buildings are not.

Hours: Thurs-Sun 10-4 from May to October; museum closed in winter.

Special Events: May 9 -Spring Makers Market at West Overton.

Admission: Free with library pass; otherwise \$15 or less

For More Information:

<http://westovertonvillage.org/>



Samuel Warden House

The grandson of Irish immigrants, Samuel Warden grew up on a farm near Mount Pleasant. Like Henry Frick, he made his fortune in coal and coke, building this Italianate brick mansion for his wife and six children. It passed down through the family until 1960 when it was purchased by the Braddock Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to house their genealogical library.

Location: 200 South Church Street in Mount Pleasant, 0.5 miles from Rt. 981.

Accessibility: Parking is available along the street. The house is not ADA-accessible.

Hours: April - Sept, Tue 6 – 8 pm and Wed 10:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Special Events: Festival of Lights in late November – early December

Admission: Donations welcome.

For More Information:

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~pabtdcar/history2.html>

Trip Four – The Lincoln Highway



Bellbrook at St. Xavier Nature Preserve

Once the guesthouse for a Catholic boarding school, this Civil-War era residence is now part of the 350-acre St. Xavier Nature Preserve. St. Xavier Academy and Convent stood here from its founding by the Sisters of Mercy in 1847 until it was lost in a fire in the 1970's. The Westmoreland Land Trust acquired the campus in 2022 and has conserved the land in perpetuity as a public nature preserve.

Location: 106 Saint Xavier Road in Latrobe, just off Route 30.

Accessibility: Parking is available near Bellbrook but only the first floor is wheelchair accessible.

Hours: Open by appointment. Contact info@westmorelandlandtrust.org.

Special Events: May 8 Bird Walk; June 26 Firefly Festival; July 22 Frog Walk

Admission: donations welcome

For More Information:

<https://westmoreland-landtrust.org/>



Lincoln Highway Experience (The Johnston House)

Built in 1815 with stones from nearby Loyalhanna Creek, this house served as the centerpiece of Scotch-Irish immigrant Alexander Johnston's iron plantation and tavern. It has since been converted into a museum dedicated to the Lincoln Highway (Route 30). The museum tour includes historical exhibits and travel artifacts including Serro's Diner, a Packard, and a typical tourist cabin.

Location: 3435 Lincoln Highway (Route 30) near Route 281 in Latrobe.

Accessibility: Handicapped parking is available, and the museum is wheelchair accessible.

Hours: April to November: Tue - Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: free with library pass, otherwise \$15 or less. Fees cover a slice of pie and cup of coffee or tea.

For More Information:

<http://lhhc.org/>

Trip Five – The Eastern Frontier



Fort Ligonier

This log and earthen fort was built in 1758 by allied forces under the command of British General John Forbes and colonial officer George Washington. It was the last in a string of forts protecting a brand-new military road. A battle here in October 1758 drove off attacking French forces, opening the way for a swift march to capture Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio (Pittsburgh).

Location: 200 South Market Street in Ligonier, just off Route 30.

Accessibility: The Museum and Center for History Education are both wheelchair accessible, but historic buildings in the Fort grounds are not.

Hours: Open daily from early April - November from 10 am to 5 pm.

Special Events: Fort Ligonier Days from October 9-11.

Admission: Free with library pass; otherwise \$14 or less.

For More Information:
<https://www.fortligonier.org/>



The Compass Inn

The log portion of this structure was built in 1799 by Philip Freeman to serve travelers on the stagecoach route that would later become the Lincoln Highway. Traffic declined in the 1860s and the building was converted into a general store and post office. It was purchased by the Richard King Mellon Foundation who transferred it to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society in 1966.

Location: 1386 Route 30 East in Laughlintown, 3 miles east of Ligonier.

Accessibility: Limited accessible parking is located at the rear of the property along Weimer Avenue. Due to the historic nature of the inn, only the first floor is accessible via ramps

Hours: May - Oct from 11 am to 4 pm.

Special Events: Candlelight tours on some weekend evenings in winter.

Admission: \$14 or less

For More Information:
<https://www.compassinn.org/>

**We hope you enjoyed this Semiquincentennial
Edition of the Westmoreland Ramble!**



**Discover more America's 250th events and
exhibits in Westmoreland County at:**

**[https://www.golaurelhighlands.com/
america250pa/westmorelandcounty/](https://www.golaurelhighlands.com/america250pa/westmorelandcounty/)**



The Westmoreland Land Trust's mission is to conserve and steward land in Westmoreland County of special ecological, cultural, or recreational value, for public benefit. Our nature preserves include the Ackermann Nature Preserve in North Huntingdon Township, Meadowlark Future Nature and Art Park in Hempfield Township and the St. Xavier Nature Preserve in Unity Township.

Westmoreland Land Trust is an accredited land conservancy and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

106 Saint Xavier Road

Latrobe PA 15650

westmoreland-landtrust.org

info@westmorelandlandtrust.org