

JAN 28 REC'D

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR - 6 1983
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC KENNEDY MANSION

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1050 Valley Forge Road, (State Route 23)

CITY, TOWN

Port Kennedy

N/A

VICINITY OF

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

N/A

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STREET & NUMBER

143 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

N/A

VICINITY OF

STATE

PENNSYLVANIA

19106

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

RECORDER OF DEEDS

STREET & NUMBER

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

STATE

19404

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT LCS 121

DATE

JANUARY 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 143 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

STATE

19106

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

The Kennedy Mansion is a three-story, five bay masonry structure in the Italianate style with a central four-story tower. The interior reflects the Egyptian Revival style. Directly behind the main block is a series of three wings, diminishing in size; the first two wings original to the 1852 construction; the third a frame wing probably built ca. 1920. The main wing is 46-1/2 x 40-1/2 feet; the tower 11-1/2 feet square. The 2-1/2 story wing is 19 x 27 feet, the 2-story wing 18-1/2 x 21-1/2 feet and the 2-story frame wing 17-1/2 x 16-1/2 feet.

The original building is crowned with a bracketed cornice. The hipped roof is so low in pitch it is only visible at a distance. Surrounding the main block is a graceful porch with a concave roof laid on curved tee-iron rafters and supported by cast iron treillage in a grapevine and morning glory design. A balcony ornaments the second floor facade of the tower. The flagstone porch floor is probably replacement. Along the east side of the wings is a two-story porch of similar style with second story balconies. Much of the lower part of this is filled with deteriorated 20th century one-story additions.

Originally all windows except the half story in the first wing were shuttered. None of the shutters remain.

The first floor interior rooms are high and monumental in scale with elegant door and window architraves, high baseboards, and plaster ceiling decorations encompassing elaborate cornices. The doors and trim are in the Egyptian Revival motif with columns that narrow upward each with an eared architrave reaching to the cornice. A crown moulding over window and door architraves fills the space between the trim and the cornice.

The main hall and drawing room are heavily moulded with elaborately decorated plaster cornices and several bands of decoration framing the large ceiling panels. The mouldings are highly carved with floral and other running motifs; in the drawing room the center of each ceiling panel is embellished with a large rococo applique, and similar designs are placed at the corners of the panels. In the dining room and parlor cornices are a complex built up series of mouldings, deeply cut but not decorated. The second floor bedrooms have cornices but only the northeast corner room is carved; this room also has a central ornate plaster medallion, simpler in design than the drawing room.

The fireplaces in the west parlor, the dining room, the east front and both west bedrooms on the second floor have been removed. In the drawing room a pair of fireplaces remain. The mantel of one is gone. The remaining mantel is white marble with pilasters on plinths, carved moulding and chamfered edges. The frieze is decorated with a double stepped bracket-shaped scallop design over the opening above the white marble surround; the spandrels at the corners above the bracket design are inset and edged with cove moulding. The northeast bedroom fireplace on the second floor is similar to that in the drawing room but simpler.

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Kennedy Mansion, Montgomery County

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All chimney stacks are brick and all are stuccoed except the stack in the first wing which is a rebuilt brick chimney with no stucco. The main block of the house has two pairs of chimneys, each with three flues, the first wing has one with three flues, the second wing has one with two flues and there is no chimney in the frame wing.

There is no elaborate built-in cabinetry although many rooms on the second floor are provided with shallow cupboards and shelving. There is evidence that a long kitchen dresser was built into the second wing but this was removed, probably ca. 1950.

The house with the two original wings was built by John Kennedy in 1852. The third wing was probably added in 1920. About 1950 the structure was remodelled into apartments. Despite the damage done by this alteration the scale and elegance of the major rooms, including door and window architraves, doors, high baseboards, plaster ceiling decorations with elaborate cornices and medallions, remain.

The early 20th century one-story additions on the east side of the wings are badly deteriorated. Since they destroy the original lightness of feeling achieved by the treillage and the integrity of the design they could be removed without damage to the architectural elements of the house.

The porches with their concave iron-framed roofs and cast iron treillage supports have deteriorated. The roof is in poor condition and has begun to leak. The interior plaster mouldings and ceiling medallions are being damaged. The stucco needs patching and on the tower the cornices appear to be in poor condition. The unoccupied building is subject to vandalism.

Located on axis with the house to the north of the last wing is a one-story garage, converted from a carriage house. There is a partial cellar with exterior access under the tack room. This is a 19-1/2 x 29-1/2 foot structure, estimated to be contemporaneous with the 1852 mansion. The building has been altered thusly. A 20th century overhead garage door replaces the original pair of doors; the area over the doors is filled with horizontal board siding. The small door to the room over the cellar area is now plywood covered. The cellar door is missing. The trim at the windows is 20th century replacement.

- continued -

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On the east side of the house opposite the second wing is a cast iron urn, about 48" in diameter at the top and 31" high. The urn is probably original to the house.

The house sits on a knoll which originally overlooked the village of Port Kennedy (see 8). Today Pennsylvania Route 23 forms the western border. Pennsylvania Route 363, a four lane highway, was constructed immediately adjacent to the east side of the house and separates it from parts of the original village.

The garden area is bordered by a fieldstone retaining wall, three feet high; some stones are now missing or have fallen but 310 feet of the wall still stand. The entry to the house passed through this wall. The entry has stone steps with flanking walls capped with flagstones of great size which match those used on the flanks of the steps at the entrance of the mansion. The steps and the entrance walk need repair.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Auge, M. Lives of the Eminent Dead and Biographical Notices of Prominent Citizens Citizens of Montgomery County, PA. Norristown, Pa., 1879
- Buck, William J. History of Montgomery County. Norristown, Pa., 1859.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0000
 UTM REFERENCES

A	18	464140	4439189	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground, with the buildings and improvement thereon erected, situate in the Township of Upper Merion, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and described in accordance with a Plan of Property of Forge View Corp., made by A. W. Martin, Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, King of Pressia, Pennsylvania, dated August 10, 1966.

-continued-

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A
STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	1. W. Joan Marshall-Dutcher, Research Historian, and	
ORGANIZATION	2. Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA, Regional Historical Architect	
STREET & NUMBER	1. Valley Forge National Historical Park	DATE
	2. Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 143 S. Third Street	2-83
CITY OR TOWNSHIP	1. Valley Forge, PA 19481	TELEPHONE
	2. Philadelphia, PA 19106	(215) 783-7700
		STATE
		(215) 597-2698

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief Historian, National Park Service DATE June 7, 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>John Helms Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register
DATE	6/21/83
DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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The lime business and Port Kennedy flourished during Kennedy's lifetime. The Presbyterian church, a handsome stone structure, was built in 1845. It still stands today, though Route 363 separates it from the mansion. Between 1846 and 1849 a bridge was constructed across the Schuylkill which was wide enough to allow two wagons to pass. The village also included a three story stone hotel, a blast furnace with stone houses and workshops and a Reading railroad station. Montgomery County historian William Buck noted three schooners, a sloop and a canal boat loading at the wharves when he visited in August 1858. Buck stated Kennedy had fourteen lime kilns and employed sixty to seventy men. Buck also mentioned a large conservatory containing curious plants attached to the house.** No visible remains of this exist.

John Kennedy died in 1877. His widow remained in the house until her death. Six owners followed. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1978.

The Kennedy Mansion continues to reflect the wealth and life style of the man who built it.

** William J. Buck, History of Montgomery County. (Norristown: E.L. Archer, 1859), pp. 46-47.

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#10.

The boundary extends no more than 15' incorporating the significant structures which are the stone wall, Kennedy Mansion and carriage house. The Valley Forge Road marks the southwest boundary, and Pennsylvania Route #363 marks the eastern boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Kennedy Mansion
Montgomery County, PENNSYLVANIA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION APPROVAL

Substantive Review

Keeper

Linda McClelland

3/3/88

MAR 28 1988

B 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	1852, ca. 1920	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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A fine example of the Italian villa style, the Kennedy Mansion retains many of its exterior and interior features. The first floor rooms, large and well proportioned, still possess their elegant details and the window and door enframements which narrow upward reflect the Egyptian Revival style. The Egyptian Revival millwork is thought to be the only such millwork in the entire National Park System.

The plaster ceilings in the principal rooms are superb. They represent the ultimate in craftsmanship in this now-almost-lost art.

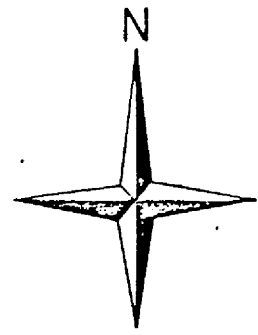
The 20th century additions are of very poor quality. They not only lack significance but they actually detract from the handsome interiors which formed the original house.

The carriage house is contemporaneous with the mansion. Over the years it has served as carriage house, tack room, springhouse or milk storage area and a garage. Although the building has some severe deterioration that should be repaired, these repairs, correctly done, will not alter the building's historic character or its historic integrity.

Built in 1852 by John Kennedy, the mansion was the focal point of the Port Kennedy Village and is one of the few structures to survive the decline of the lime and blast furnace industry in the area. The mansion sits on a knoll which originally overlooked the community.

John Kennedy was born in 1815, the youngest of Alexander Kennedy's eight children. Entering the stock business in 1839 he became the major landowner and businessman of the community. In 1842 he purchased the lime works at Port Kennedy and built one of the extensive lime productions in the area. According to a biographer, he shipped "...immense quantities, mainly by canal, to Maryland and all over the Delaware peninsula."* He frequently visited Maryland where he owned lands, including an estate, and where a local village was named Kennedysville in his honor.

*M. Auge, Lives of the Eminent Dead and Biographical Notices of Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County, PA (Norristown, 1879), p. 145.



L.R. 363 (1046)

CARRIAGE HOUSE

KENNEDY MANSION

FLAGSTONE PORCH

--- Property Boundary

VALLEY FORGE ROAD

STONE

WALL

(L.R. 46136)

KENNEDY MANSION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

SCALE 1" = 100'

200 Feet



ZONE 18