

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Tay, John, Homestead

HISTORIC John Jay House, Bedford House

AND/OR COMMON

John Jay Homestead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Jay Street (State Route 22), west of intersection with State Route 137 and Maple Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Katonah

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1526th

STATE

New York

CODE

036

COUNTY

Westchester

CODE

119

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 State of New York

STREET & NUMBER

Office of Parks and Recreation, Empire State Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Albany

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Westchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

White Plains

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

1. JOHN JAY HOUSE

"Construction of the John Jay House began in February, 1787, when Jay made an agreement with two brick makers for the burning of 200,000 brick at Bedford and with a house carpenter to build a new dwelling "with a Piazza before and a kitchen adjoining." [The completed house was to be inspected by Captain Anthony Post, a master builder.] In March, Jay contracted with a mason for filling in the walls with brick. In 1788, Jay purchased window glass, putty, window hinges, and door hinges for the house. Work on the tin leaders and drains for the roof extended into 1790. With the completion of the roof in 1790, the first period of construction drew to a close.¹

"In 1800, as Jay prepared for retirement from public service a second stage of construction was begun at the mansion [by contract with Hezekiah Tracy]. A new office wing with "a good Bedroom behind it" was added on the west end of the original building. As part of this work, the old kitchen was demolished. The roofline of the existing house was lowered, and the windows in the south facade were removed and larger ones installed. In 1801, the south facade of the main block of the house was extended by two bays to form a symmetrical composition. On the east end, a kitchen wing was constructed to balance the office wing on the other end of the main block. During 1801, Jay contracted for 100,000 bricks and ordered lumber and 20,000 shingles for these additions.

"The next major change occurred in 1818 when the north wing was constructed. This addition was reportedly built to provide additional guest rooms and family bedrooms.

"During the nineteenth century, a large, central gable was erected above the south facade. Designed in a neo-baroque style, this bell-shaped gable featured a doorway and small balcony at the center. At the same time dormers were added to the central block of the house and to the two flanking wings. On the south facade, a large porch consisting of paired columns supporting a flat roof replaced the original piazza. Along the edge of the deck was a balustrade with turned balusters. French doors may have been installed in the south facade of the first floor of the main section of the house at this time.

¹ John G. Waite, Paul R. Huey, and Martha Truax, John Jay House: An Historic Structure Report (New York State Historic Trust, 1972), p. 77.

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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1787, 1800-1802, 1818, ca. 1850, ca. 1890, 1904, 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT House carpenter: John Cooley (1787) Mason: Moses Winian (1787)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A country seat and farm acquired during the peak of John Jay's political career and entirely developed by Jay himself, the Homestead in Bedford, New York is closely associated with the life of John Jay (1745-1829), a major figure in the political history of the United States in the formative years from the period of the War for Independence until the close of the 18th century. A statesman, diplomat, and jurist, Jay served in a wide variety of major public roles including President of the Continental Congress, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Confederation, and first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the formative first years of the Supreme Court and the Federation.

A conservative idealist, Jay had continued to hope for reconciliation with Britain up to the eve of independence, while supporting the colonial cause. An active member of New York's Committee of Fifty-one (1774) and a member of the First Continental Congress (1774), Jay drafted "The Address to the People of Great Britain," a statement of the colonists' rights which gained him a wide reputation. Jay subsequently served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress (1775-1776) and member of the New York Provincial Congress (1776-1777). In Albany for the meeting of the Provincial Congress, he was not present in Philadelphia when the Declaration of Independence was signed, but he wrote the resolutions by which New York approved the document.

In 1777 Jay drafted New York's first constitution and became the state's first Chief Justice. Returning to the Continental Congress that same year, Jay was elected President of that body and served in that capacity until his appointment nine months later as Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain (1780-1782). Refused an official reception in Madrid, he met with frustration in his efforts to obtain increased Spanish participation in the War because of Spanish hostility to American independence. His mission resulted only in a small loan to the new American government. In 1782 Jay was appointed by Congress as a commissioner to serve with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Henry Laurens to negotiate peace with Britain. Contrary to their instructions from Congress, Jay and Adams, distrustful of France, opened secret separate negotiations with the British which resulted in the Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783, and the successful conclusion of the War of Independence.

Elected by Congress as Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 1784, Jay served in that capacity until 1790. His peacetime career as a diplomat during this period is most often associated with the controversial Jay-Gardoqui Treaty of 1786 which

(CONTINUED)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 58.9

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 1 2 6 6 0	4 5 6 7 5 1 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1 8	6 1 2 1 3 0	4 5 6 6 9 4 0

B	1 8	6 1 2 7 0 0	4 5 6 6 8 6 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1 8	6 1 2 0 0 0	4 5 6 7 5 0 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION 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

Lynn A. Beebe, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION National Register of Historic Places,

DATE

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

4/4/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

440 G Street NW.

202-343-6401

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C. 20243

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

National Register of Historic Places
1972 Federal
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
440 G Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20243

New York State Historic Trust Resources Survey
New York State Historic Resources Inventory (present title)
1968 State
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Office of Parks and Recreation
Agency Building One, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York

New York: A Guide to the Empire State
1940 Federal
Work Projects Administration, Writers Program
New York: Oxford University Press, 1962

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"A photograph dating from about 1890 ...indicates still more exterior modifications. By this time, the bell-shaped gable had been replaced by one with straight sides, although evidence of the earlier gable remained near the intersection of the gable and cornice. The elaborate porch, or at least the columns and balustrade, had been replaced with single Doric columns and a simple balustrade.

"In January, 1904, the architectural firm of Hoppin, Koen, and Huntington, of New York City, prepared plans and specifications for alterations and additions to the house. An addition to the north wing was built under the firm's direction and the interior of the wing was modified at this time.

"The next great period of construction began under the direction of Mrs. Eleanor Jay Iselin in 1925. The large west wing was erected at this time to serve as both an art gallery and a room for entertaining.

"On November 27, 1926, a fire destroyed much of the third floor and the roof. During the rebuilding the original pitch and profile of the roof were altered, and the central gable of the south elevation was eliminated. The interior partitions of the third floor were constructed at that time."²

In 1959, the State of New York acquired thirty acres of the Jay estate which included the John Jay House. Jurisdiction of the estate was placed in the Education Department which decided to restore a section of the house to its appearance during Jay's retirement, 1801-1829, while preserving the rest of the house as it existed in 1959 as a reflection of the later generations of the Jay family. With these goals in mind the Education Department carried out a restoration program between 1960 and 1964. Despite the alterations which occurred over the years much of the original fabric of Jay's residence has survived in tact.

FARM COMPLEX

Clustered around the main house are a variety of outbuildings and sites:

² Ibid., pp. 77-81.

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2. Brick House: Built between 1798 and 1800 for John Jay's Farm Manager, Major Samuel Lyons, from brick made on the property. Among the carpenters was Hezekiah Tracy who was later retained for the expansion of the main house.
 3. School house (1824-1828)
 4. Play house (1920s)
 5. Water tank (1920s)
 6. Laundry Building (ca. 1917)
 7. Sheep Barn
 8. Carriage Barn (1800)
 9. Coachman's House (1800)
 10. Wagon Shed (1800)
 11. Barn (late 19th century)
 12. Main Barn (1832)
 13. Stone Barn
 14. Barn (late 19th century)
 15. Root Cellar (1970s)
 16. Farm Hand's Cottage (ca. 1920s)
 17. Poultry House
 18. Prefab. Cottage (early 1920s)
 19. Garage (1920s)
 20. Potting Shed (late 19th century)

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21. Pumphouse (appears to have been built late in the 19th century on the site of an earlier pumphouse)
 22. Stable foundation
 24. Barn Foundation
 25. Poultry House Foundation (late 19th century)
 26. Stone Foundation
 27. Concrete Foundation
 28. Cobblestone courtyard: located between the carriage barn and the coachman's house
 29. Brick-making site: located on the Brick Lot (Society for Historical Archeology Newsletter, March, 1978)
 30. Site of the After Smith House (1770s): located near the entrance to the Jay property
 31. Dam and Mill pond

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would have prohibited American use of the Mississippi River for 25 years in return for commercial concessions. Defeated in Congress by proponents of Southern navigational interests, the treaty aroused sectional suspicions which were essentially responsible for the later constitutional provision requiring a two-thirds vote of the Senate for approval of treaties.

Convinced of the need for a more strongly centralized government than the Articles of Confederation provided, Jay supported ratification of the Constitution drafted in 1787. His best known contribution to this effort is his collaboration with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison in the Federalist Papers, the classical defense of the Constitution. Writing under the pseudonym "Publius", Jay prepared five of the essays. Also widely read during this period was a constitutional tract which Jay published anonymously as an "Address to the People of New York."

When the new federal government was implemented in 1789, President George Washington appointed Jay first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a pivotal role in the new government since the Judiciary Act of 1789 had made clear that the Federal court was responsible for interpreting the Constitution as the supreme law. Jay served in this capacity until 1795. In the most notable decision of Jay's tenure, Chisholm vs. Georgia (1793), the court held that a state could be sued in the Supreme Court by an individual--a decision which dealt a blow to state sovereignty. The decision precipitated adoption of the 11th Amendment which deprived the federal courts of all jurisdiction in cases brought against a state by citizens of other states or foreign countries.

Washington's neutrality policy was endangered during this period by strained relations with Britain which had brought the two nations close to war. While still Chief Justice, Jay was despatched to Britain to negotiate a settlement--a task made particularly difficult by Alexander Hamilton's separate communications with British representatives. The result was the controversial Jay Treaty (1794). Although the treaty did remove the British from the Northwest Territory, it failed in other respects, and was ratified primarily as the only available alternative to war.

The treaty had become a bitter issue between the Jeffersonian Republicans and the Federalists. An aristocrat and political conservative aligned with men such as Alexander Hamilton, Jay was a major figure in the political group known as the Federalists. Opposed to the formation of political parties on the grounds that they threatened social solidarity and order, Jay was nonetheless aligned, by virtue of his political beliefs, in the early conflict between two schools of political thought which strove to interpret the new government and which evolved into the nation's first political parties. Supported primarily by Federalists, Jay was elected to his last public office

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in New York State where he served as Governor from 1795 to 1801, and in that capacity continued to oppose political polarization by refusing to make appointments along partisan lines or to allow alteration of the state's election laws for partisan advantage.

Upon his retirement from public life in 1801, John Jay devoted himself entirely to the development of his 1000-acre farm in Bedford which he had inherited from his father in 1782. Jay had contracted in February 1787 with house carpenter John Cooley and other craftsmen for construction of a small farmhouse; the dwelling appears to have been essentially completed by 1790. Although still much distracted by his political career, Jay in 1790 had begun to indulge his interest in horticulture and farm economy through the development of his farm, a project which his diary reveals he personally superintended and which he furthered during his trips to Europe by contact with the English Board of Agriculture. In addition to engaging in horticultural experimentation such as tree grafting and drainage systems, Jay developed mills on his property and experimented in brick-making. In 1799 Jay had directed the construction of a new brick farmhouse for his estate manager and had made plans for the expansion of his own farmhouse into a more spacious dwelling. With his retirement in 1801, Jay assumed an active role in the completion of the house and devoted himself full time to his interests in farm economy and horticulture through the development and management of his farm. During the 28 years he spent in retirement at the homestead Jay strove continually for better farm management techniques and greater production. Commenting on his life at the farm in Bedford, Jay observed "that the expectations which since the days of my youth induced me to prefer and desire rural retirement have been realized. Here I enjoy liberty in a comprehensive sense and leisure which is neither vicious nor useless."

The house which Jay constructed on the Bedford farm is a direct reflection of Jay's concepts of a republican society and nation. Convinced that America should be simple, without nobility or country seats, Jay deliberately built an unostentatious vernacular dwelling which he felt was appropriate for a working farm and therefore suitable for the American countryside. The design of the house combines many of the elements of New England and Hudson Valley architecture of the Federal period. Many of the outbuildings and archeological sites extant on the property enhance the homestead's significance as a reflection of Jay's lifestyle and as an illustration of a farm complex of the first quarter of the 19th century.

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The property passed at Jay's death in 1829 to his son William Jay, philanthropist and abolitionist, who also pursued an active interest in farm management. Following William Jay's occupancy, title passed to John Jay II, lawyer and Minister to Austria. The house remained in the Jay Family until 1959 when it was purchased by the County of Westchester and transferred to the State of New York to preserve as a historic site. The state subsequently purchased additional portions of Jay's farmland including many of the related outbuildings, and opened the Homestead to the public. At intervals during the 19th and early 20th centuries the house was expanded and altered by Jay's descendants, with the result that although the original dwelling has been restored, the building in its entirety and the farm complex are expressive not only of John Jay's occupancy but also of the evolving tastes and standards of a prominent New York family.

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_____ Memorials of Peter Augustus Jay. New York: The DeVinne Press, 1905.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the designated property corresponds with the property line of the New York State Historic Site, John Jay Homestead. See Map of Reynolds Survey (c. 1858) with the present property lines superimposed.

Beginning at a point on the north side of State Route 22 approximately 225 feet west of the intersection with Maple Avenue, Cantitoe Road, and State Route 137, the boundary runs west along the north side of State Route 22 approximately 1230 feet, then northwest about 1250 feet to the northwest corner of the Pear Orchard Lot. From there the boundary extends northeast about 430 feet, thence east about 1600 feet to the east boundary of the Old Orchard Lot, thence southwest and south for approximately 1250 feet along the east boundary of the Old Orchard Lot and the Brick Lot to a point on the east boundary of the Brick Lot which is about 200 feet from State Route 22. The boundary then extends approximately 200 feet west, thence south along a line parallel to the continuation of the east boundary of the Brick Lot, to the point of beginning on the north side of State Route 22. The area includes the following lots as identified in the Reynolds Survey (c. 1858): the Pear Orchard, the Nursery, and portions of the Ridge, the Brick Lot, the Old Orchard, the Homestead Lawn, and the Ridgeway.