

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS 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

historic Espy House

and/or common Espy House (General Arthur St. Clair Office)

2. Location

street & number 123 Pitt Street ___ not for publication

city, town Bedford ___ vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code _____ county Bedford code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Smith

street & number P.O. Box 49

city, town Bedford ___ vicinity of state Pennsylvania 15522

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Bedford state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records National Register of Historic Places, 440 G St., N.W.

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>Unknown</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1770-71, the Espy House takes its name from David Espy, the prothonotary of Bedford County in 1778 and owner of the house when Washington stayed there in 1794.

The Espy House is an oblong-shaped two-and-one-half-story house with thick fieldstone walls, a gable roof, and one end chimney. The structure is about 24 feet wide and 32 feet deep. A long two-story frame late 19th-century addition adjoins the stone building on the rear. The roof of the stone house is covered with slate and second-story windows have exterior louvered shutters. Except for the insertion of a large store window in the center and east bays of the first story, the exterior of the Espy House is otherwise little-altered.

The first floor consists of one large room, and a side entrance hall, along the west (or left) side of the room. The room, now utilized as a bakery shop, has a late 19th-century metal ceiling and the fireplace has been closed off. Baking facilities are in the rear frame addition. The entrance to the upper two floors is in the western or left-hand bay of the three-bay wide facade. The door, topped by a rectangular transom, opens into a side hall that extends through the house and is divided by means of an arch into two sections. The rear portion of the hall contains the stair, which is set against the west (left) wall.

On the second floor there are a small stair hall, in the northwest rear corner, and two other rooms--a small one situated in the northeast rear corner, and a larger room that occupies the entire front half of the structure. Each of the two rooms has a fireplace. This plan is repeated on the third floor, but here the rooms lack fireplaces. The floors are of wide boards and the walls are plastered. The doors and hardware are largely original. The upper floors are used as a residence and are not open to visitors.

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
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1794 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Espy House in Bedford, Pennsylvania, is where President George Washington stayed, when he accompanied the militia army that was to put down the Whiskey Rebellion. Washington arrived in Bedford late in the day on October 19, 1794, and left in the late afternoon of the following day to return to Philadelphia. Before departing he once again reviewed the army.

Washington's most significant action while in Bedford was to give Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the Governor of Virginia, who was acting as commander-in-chief of the militia army, his final orders and instructions.

They were:

United States (Bedford) 20th Oct. 1794

To Henry Lee Esq. Commander in Chief of the
Militia Army, on its march against the Insurgents
in certain Western Counties of Pennsylvania

Sir,

Being about to return to the seat of Government, I cannot take my departure without conveying through you to the Army under your command the very high sense I entertain of the enlightened and patriotic zeal for the constitution and the laws which has led them so cheerfully to quit their families homes and the comforts of private life to undertake and thus far to perform a long and fatiguing march and to encounter and endure the hardships and privations of a Military life. Their conduct hitherto affords a full assurance that their perseverance will be equal to their zeal and that they will continue to perform with alacrity - whatever the full accomplishment of the object of their march shall render necessary.

No citizens of the U. States can ever be engaged in a service more important to the Country. It is nothing less than to consolidate and preserve the blessings of that Revolution which at much expense of blood and treasure constituted us a free and independent Nation. It is to give the world an illustrious example, of the utmost consequence to the cause of mankind. I experience a heart-felt satisfaction in the conviction that the Conduct of the troops throughout will be in every respect answerable to the goodness of the cause and the magnitude of the stake.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. XVI, pp. 293-95.

Gilchrist, Annie M. A Brief History of Bedford, Pennsylvania. Bedford, 1957.

History of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania. Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1884, p. 197. (See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bedford

Quadrangle scale 15 Minute Series

UTM References

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: $40^{\circ} 01' 10''$ North; $78^{\circ} 30' 11''$ West

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Town lot on which house stands.

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 Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian (revised James W. Sheire, 1982).

organization Division of History, National Park Service date July 26, 1972

street & number

telephone

city or town Washington

state D.C.

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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There is but one point on which I think it proper to add a special recommendation. It is this, that every officer and soldier will constantly bear in mind that he comes to support the laws and that it would be peculiarly unbecoming in him to be in any way the infractor of them; - that the essential principles of a free government confine the provinces of the Military to these two objects, 1st to combat and subdue all who may be found in arms in opposition to the National will and authority; 2nd to aid and support the civil Magistrate in bringing offenders to justice--The dispensation of this justice belongs to the civil Magistrate and let it ever be our pride and our glory to leave the sacred deposit there unviolated.

Convey to my fellow citizens in arms my warm acknowledgments for the readiness with which they have seconded me in the most delicate and momentous duty the chief Magistrate of a free people can have to perform and add my affectionate wishes for their health comfort and success.

--Could my further presence with them have been necessary or compatible with my civil duties at a period when the approaching commencement of a session of Congress particularly urges me to return to the seat of Government; it would not have been withheld. In leaving them I have the less regret, as I know I commit them to an able and faithful director; and that this director will be ably and faithfully seconded by all--

G. Washington

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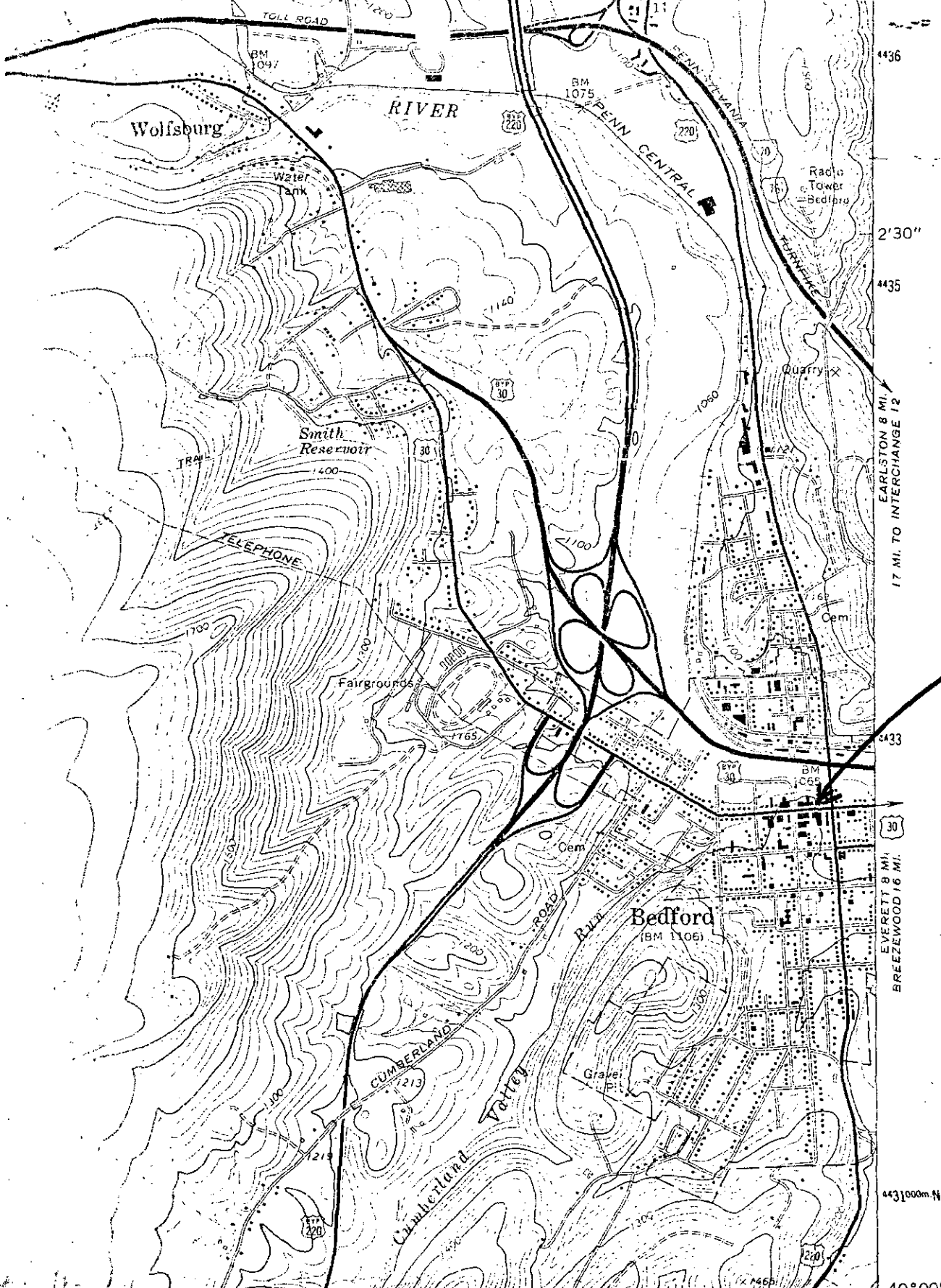
Continuation sheet

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Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State (American Guide Series). New York: 1940,
p. 450.

Ward, Christopher. The War of the Revolution. 2 vols. New York: 1952, pp. 198, 293-94,
296, 301, 309, 311, 315, 386, 407-413, 416, 596, 625, 838, 839.



ESPY HOUSE

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1973
 BEDFORD SPRINGS 0.3 MI.
 CUMBERLAND, MD. 29 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

(CLEARVILLE)
 5363 N.W.