

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania  
 COUNTY: Lancaster  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Wheatland, The Home of James Buchanan  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Wheatland

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Marietta Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 16  
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: COUNTY: Lancaster CODE: 79

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 21 North Duke Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: North Duke Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1828 on the order of one William Jenkins, Wheatland is presently owned by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland. The Federal style house stands on the western outskirts of Lancaster, and despite its age and numerous changes of ownership it has been spared remodeling and major alteration. The only interior changes were those made necessary by the installation of modern heating and lighting systems. The house is square, of brick construction, two-and-a-half stories high, with a gable roof and north and south wings. The north wing is three stories high, with a pent roof, and the south wing is also three stories high, but with a flat roof, and a front door with a fan light. The main entrance is sheltered by a one-story portico with four pillars framing the arched doorway with its fanlight. At the rear entrance is an informal veranda.

The house contains 17 rooms, five of which are on the unrestored third floor, which is lit by three gabled dormers on the front facade. On the first floor are the warming kitchen, breakfast room, dining room, parlor, and library. From the main hall, the stairway ascends to the second floor, which is given over to bedrooms, dressing rooms, and an exhibit room containing pictures, letters, and other Buchanan memorabilia. The ~~ex-President~~ died in a plainly-furnished back room on the second floor. The house's furnishings are all appropriate to the Buchanan period, and include many fine pieces which belonged to Buchanan. The library is furnished almost entirely with his pieces.

Surrounding the house are approximately four and a quarter acres landscaped with old trees, shrubs, and flower gardens. Outbuildings include the old smokehouse and privy. The house and grounds are maintained in excellent condition, and are open to the public.

Boundaries:

Beginning at a point on the southwesterly curb of Marietta Avenue 302' northwest of the intersection of Marietta Avenue and President Avenue, proceed southwest 701', thence northwest 264' thence northeast 753' to the southwesterly curb of Marietta Avenue, thence 295' southeast to the point of origin.

These measurements enclose Wheatland and its grounds within the bounds of its lot.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849-1868

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Wheatland" was the home of James Buchanan from 1849 until his death in 1868. During this period, he served as 15th President of the United States (1857-1861). In these years, the grave responsibility of presiding over a Nation moving toward disunion and civil war fell on Buchanan. Whether another and more able leader could have averted the final catastrophe can never be known. As Chief Executive during four of the Nation's most critical years, Buchanan stands as a figure of national significance. His comfortable estate at "Wheatland" is the site most intimately associated with him, at the time he was a national figure.

"Wheatland" is a brick Federal-style house, built in 1828 on the order of one William Jenkins, who also gave the mansion its name. Buchanan purchased the estate in 1849. After Buchanan's death, the house passed through several hands before its acquisition by the James Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland.

It is located in Lancaster County, western outskirts of Lancaster, on Marietta Avenue (State Route 340).

History

James Buchanan was <sup>born</sup> near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania on April 23, 1791. Even as a young man of 24, Buchanan was so proficient in oratory and legal knowledge, that his income from his legal practice exceeded \$11,000. Utilizing these same attributes, Buchanan soon became a successful politician as well. As a member of the Federalist Party, he was nominated to the Pennsylvania State Assembly in 1814, and served two terms. In 1820 he was elected to the Congress where he continued to serve for ten years. With the death of the Federalist Party by the 1824 campaign, Buchanan allied himself with Jackson and the Democrats. In 1823-33 he served as the Minister to Russia, then returned to successfully run for the Senate in 1834, 1837, and 1843. At this time Buchanan came to be relied upon as a stalwart Democrat, and as one of the chief supporters of the measures of Jackson and Van Buren. In 1844, he was considered as a presidential possibility, but was passed over for James Polk who then selected him for his Secretary of State.

In 1848, Buchanan retired temporarily from politics and purchased his country estate, "Wheatland." Buchanan was passed over again in the 1852 presidential

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carl R. Fish, "James Buchanan," Dictionary of American Biography Vol. III.  
 Gail Gibson, "James Buchanan," Historic Pennsylvania Leaflet No. 28.  
 Philip Klein, The Story of Weatland (Lancaster, 1936).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.25 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey      DATE: 1-14-75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 L Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.      STATE: \_\_\_\_\_      CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/3/79

ATTEST:

Bill Labovich      (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date January 3, 1979

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campaign, and was appointed by Franklin Pierce as Minister to England. Although nothing of extreme significance was accomplished during his tenure as minister, Buchanan was still a highly-popular national figure, and in 1856, he was elected to the Presidency. In the troublesome years before the outbreak of the war, Buchanan maintained his support of the South, but lost Northern Democrats under the leadership of Stephen Douglas. Buchanan relied on the decisions of the Courts and Congress in such key issues as the extension of slavery in the territories and the regulations of economic tariffs. At the close of his presidential term, upon the eve of Lincoln's inauguration, Buchanan's administration began to splinter under the strain of the sectional conflict. Buchanan continued on in an agony of indecision, and after participating in Lincoln's inauguration, he left the unresolved situation in the hands of his successor.

Upon retirement to Wheatland, he defended himself by the publication of Mr. Buchanan's Administration Upon the Eve of Rebellion. His continued local popularity is reflected in the fact that 20,000 people attended his funeral, after his death on June 1, 1868.

