

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Pennsylvania	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XII, Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
3. NAME(S) OF SITE "Friendship Hill," Albert Gallatin Home		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Point Marion, Fayette County		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Mr. Sherwood C. Martin, Point Marion		

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
Abraham Alfonse Albert Gallatin was born into a distinguished Geneva family on January 29, 1761. He had lost both parents by the age of nine, but relatives aided the youth and he obtained an excellent education, being graduated from Geneva's outstanding Academy in 1779. Only eighteen, Gallatin's radicalism manifested itself when he rejected an opportunity to serve as an officer in the Hessian forces then fighting against the rebels in the English mainland American colonies. Yet, he sailed for America near the end of his eighteenth year, not to fight against the Americans, but to settle in a land that seemed to offer an opportunity to apply the enlightened ideas of Jean Jacques Rousseau.

When Gallatin landed in Massachusetts in midsummer of 1780, America received a man who was both an idealist and a pragmatist. The young man already dreamed of a new society, free of the blighting effects of Europe's monarchical system, and as his black hair gave way to baldness as he grew older, Gallatin made a sustained attempt to advance his idealism by tackling a basic problem, public finance. Gallatin's struggle to eliminate the public debt when he headed the Treasury Department, and with it, as he saw it, a host of evils, was not simply an economist's desire to banish national indebtedness, but a humanitarian's effort to implement

the ideal he had formed of a great and pure society in the New World, which was to offer to the human race the first example of man in his best condition, free from all the evils which infected Europe, and intent only on his own improvement.<sup>1</sup>

Stimulated by his idealism, as well as by a desire to establish himself after having rejected offers of aid by prominent friends in Geneva, Gallatin soon became involved in

<sup>1</sup>Henry Adams, The Life of Albert Gallatin (Philadelphia, 1879), 272-273.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)  
Henry Adams, History of the United States (9 vols.; New York, 1921), I, 72, 163, 190-91, 239; IV, 364; Henry Adams, The Life of Albert Gallatin (Philadelphia, 1879), 17, 25, 63, 67, 79, 86, 154, 161, 174-75, 180, 269, 272-73, 298-99, 350-51, 491-92, 546, 672; Alexander Balinsky, Albert Gallatin, Fiscal Theories and Policies (New Brunswick, 1958), 11, 90, 93-94, 96, 113, 115, 127, 242-45; Edward A. Channing, A History of the United States (cont.)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABS, etc.)  
Letter to S. Sydney Bradford, Staff Historian, Northeast Region, National Park Service, from Dr. Paul A. Wallace, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, November 13, 1963.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Probably well maintained	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Residence	13. DATE OF VISIT March, 1964
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) S. Sydney Bradford		15. TITLE Staff Historian	16. DATE November 24, 1964

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

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STATE Pennsylvania	NAME(S) OF SITE "Friendship Hill," Albert Gallatin Home
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7. Importance and Description (cont.)

a large land speculation in western Pennsylvania and Virginia. He travelled to his virgin lands in 1784 and four years later purchased "Friendship Hill," where, as he wrote much later, his talents found little service and where he felt isolated from the world he had known. A poor speculator, he never realized a profit on his lands. His affairs had progressed so poorly by 1789, even his bride of a few months dying, that he thought of returning to Switzerland, only to be deterred by the outbreak of the French Revolution. Even so, by 1789 Gallatin had become involved in politics, which kept him away from Friendship Hill with increasing frequency and enabled him to try to implement his idealism.

Between 1788 and 1800, Gallatin, to the dismay of the Federalists, sought to make American republicanism more democratic. During 1788, he attended a convention in Harrisburg called to consider revisions in the Federal constitution, and Gallatin supported every attempt to enhance the power of the people and limit that of the executive. Much later, when a member of the Federal House of Representatives, he expressed the same principle during the debate over the execution of Jay's Treaty, claiming the House possessed the right to consider the application of treaties. While a member of the Pennsylvania legislature between 1790-1792, he strove to better public education, to reform prisons, and to abolish slavery in Pennsylvania, holding slavery to be "inconsistent with every principle of humanity, justice, and right."<sup>2</sup> Gallatin also vigorously attacked the commonwealth's fiscal situation, demanding, in general, strictness in accounting and full reporting to the public. When elected to the national House of Representatives in 1794, Gallatin in the next six years probably accomplished his greatest work in making the Treasury completely accountable to the Congress. He forced the creation of the Ways and Means Committee in the House to implement the House's control of national finances, and that committee still performs the service for which it was created.

When Thomas Jefferson made Gallatin Secretary of the Treasury in 1801, the immigrant grasped the opportunity to apply his fiscal theories in order to advance his social ideas. The new secretary hoped to abolish the national debt, which he held to be the prime cause of more than just fiscal evil, and an amazing increase in trade between 1802-1807 enabled him to cut many millions from the debt, even after various internal taxes had been abolished. Apparent success led both Jefferson and Gallatin to believe that by 1807 America could concentrate on internal improvements that would help to create the new society they both desired. After a year's work, Gallatin on September 12, 1808, issued his notable report on internal improvements, it calling for a ten year, \$20,000,000 program of road and canal building. But even by September, 1808, America's relations

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Adams, Gallatin, 86.

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Pennsylvania	"Friendship Hill," Albert Gallatin Home

7. Importance and Description (cont.)

with Great Britain had so worsened that Gallatin's grand scheme never had a chance to be applied. Instead, Gallatin had to resort to fiscal policies that he had deplored when the Federalists were in power in order to bolster America's economy as her international trade fell afoul of British and French harrassment and interference. The War of 1812 obliterated any final hopes he had of accomplishing his goal.

Although Gallatin remained the Secretary of the Treasury until February, 1814, he stopped carrying out that office's duties in May, 1813, when he began a new career as a diplomat. President James Madison appointed him a member of the commission to treat with the British in Moscow, after Russia had offered to mediate the differences between America and England in hopes of ending the Anglo-American conflict. Britain refused to attend any meeting in St. Petersburg, but when she and the United States agreed to negotiations to try and end the war in 1814, Gallatin performed notably in helping to write the Treaty of Ghent, which was signed on December 24, 1814. In 1815, Gallatin became the American minister to France, serving for seven years. After returning to the United States in 1823, he subsequently executed several additional diplomatic missions.

It is not surprising that Gallatin, now in the final period of his brilliant career, sold Friendship Hill in 1832 and settled in New York City. There he continued his efforts to improve America, although in a more limited setting than before. He supported the attempt to create a city university, he founded the American Ethnological Society in 1842, he became the president of the New-York Historical Society in 1844, and on April 24, 1848, when eighty-four, he denounced the annexation of Texas because that meant the extension of slavery. When his wife, the former Hannah Nicholson, whom he married on November 1, 1793, died in the spring of 1849, Gallatin experienced a dreadful blow, and he died on August 12, 1849.

Condition of the Site

Because the owner of "Friendship Hill" did not permit the writer to visit the house, the exact condition of it is not known. But as the building is used as a residence, it is probably well maintained.

Today, "Friendship Hill" consists of three sections. The original brick house stood when Gallatin purchased Friendship Hill in 1788, but the date of its construction is not known. Gallatin added a stone section, at a right angle from an end of the brick

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7. Importance and Description (cont.)

section, in 1823-24. His son had supervised the erection of the new wing while Gallatin was in Paris and when he returned from France and saw the new section he was very disappointed in it. At some unknown date after Gallatin had sold Friendship Hill in 1832, the original section had an addition attached to it, on the end opposite to the one where Gallatin had built a wing. Since the construction of the third section, the house has not been expanded.

The writer knows nothing about the interior of the house.

There is no doubt that Friendship Hill is a significant structure. Nevertheless, until the house can be visited and an accurate statement concerning its integrity can be made, it is recommended that the decision as to whether or not it possesses exceptional value be delayed.

8. Bibliographical References (cont.)

(6 vols.; New York, 1917), IV, 169, 260, 549-50; Dictionary of American Biography; Frank Ewing, America's Forgotten Statesman: Albert Gallatin (New York, 1959), 42-43, 289-290; Minnie Kendall Lowther, Historic Friendship Hill, Home of Albert Gallatin (Rutland, Vermont, 1940), 11, 14-15, 22-24, 54.