

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Westchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Thomas Paine Cottage

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
20 Sicard Avenue, at North and Paine Avenues

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Rochelle

STATE: New York      CODE:      COUNTY: Westchester      CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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: Mr. Thomas Hctor, President, Huguenot and Historical Association of New Rochelle

STREET AND NUMBER:  
20 Sicard Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: New Rochelle 10804      STATE: New York      CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: New Rochelle      STATE: New York      CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas Paine Cottage is a small two-story frame house of the salt-box type with a central chimney and a gable roof with a long slope to the rear. Exterior walls are covered with shingles. The oldest portion of the cottage is 16 feet wide and 31 feet deep. A one-story frame wing about 18 feet wide and 23 feet deep, with a porch across its front, was added to the cottage in 1804. The main house is three bays wide and has the entrance set in the right-hand bay. There are three rooms set one behind the other in the main house - the kitchen in front, a small room in the center heated by a Franklin stove, which was presented to Paine by its inventor, and a bedroom in the rear. The wing to the right, now utilized as a caretaker's apartment, contains a parlor. There are four bedrooms on the second floor.

The entrance door and the square pillars of the porch on the wing are Greek Revival and were added about 1830. The exterior wood shingles are replacements of the originals. The wide board flooring, frame, plaster walls, and chair rails are original.

The cottage was moved to its present site on the corner of Paine's farm in 1908 in order to save the building when the remainder of his farmland was subdivided. The Cottage is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

Near the Paine Cottage stands the Thomas Paine Monument, erected in 1839 and topped by a bronze bust of Paine by Wilson McDonald that was added 1881. The monument, owned by the City of New Rochelle, was located in its present site in 1905.

Also standing near the Thomas Paine Cottage is the Thomas Paine Memorial Building, a two-story stone structure erected by the Thomas Paine National Historical Association in 1925. The Memorial Building, also open to visitors, contains a number of Paine's personal effects and exhibits of his writings. The Association was organized in 1906.

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## 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) 1784-1809

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

This modest cottage was the home from 1802 until 1806 of Thomas Paine, master pamphleteer and propagandist for the War for Independence and for the Rights of Man. In 1809 he was buried on this farm which he owned from 1784 to 1809. His cottage was moved in 1908, about one-fourth of a mile from its original site to its present location. The house however, is still located on his farm and is adjacent to the site when Paine was buried as in 1809.

History

Thomas Paine was born in Thetford England, in 1737. He attended school until 13, when poverty made it necessary to apprentice him as a corset maker. He left home at 19 and between 1757 and 1774 held a variety of jobs, lived in several towns, and went through two brief, childless marriages. His first wife died in 1759 and his second, whom he married in 1771, was legally separated from him 1774. Paine spent his spare time and money on books, lectures, and scientific apparatus. He read widely, worked hard at mathematics and experimented with mechanical contrivances. In October 1774 Paine decided to try his luck in the New World, and having met Franklin in London and made a favorable impression on him, he sailed for Philadelphia bearing letters of introduction from the American philosopher.

Arriving in Philadelphia on November 30, Paine fell naturally into journalism and supported himself by contributions to Robert Aitken's Pennsylvania Magazine. Paine was a pioneer in the movement for the abolition of Negro slavery and his work in 1775 covered a wide range of other subjects.

Paine was the first publicist to discover Americans mission: his Common Sense, published as an anonymous, two shilling pamphlet of 47 pages on January 10, 1776, was an amazing success; some 120,000 copies were sold in the first three months and perhaps as many as 500,000 in all. Paine urged the immediate Declaration of Independence, not merely as a striking practical gesture that would help unite the colonies and secure French and Spanish aid, but as the fulfillment of America's moral obligation to the world. If now, while American society was still uncorrupt, natural, and democratic, these colonies should free themselves from a vicious monarchy, they could alter human destiny by

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

New York, A Guide to the Empire State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1956, 246-247.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIV, 159-166.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	56'	01"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	Present Location		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	40	56	11
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	Original Location		
							73	47	12

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service**      DATE: **4/24/72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **801 19th Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE:

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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Thomas Paine Cottage (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance (1)

their example. Paine also enlisted in the Continental Army in time to join in the retreat across New Jersey. At Newark he set to work on the first Crisis, which appeared in the Pennsylvania Journal on December 19, and in pamphlet form on December 23, 1776. Eleven other numbers of Crisis, with four supernumerary ones, appeared during the course of the war. This whole work shows Paine at his best as a political journalist.

In April 1777 Paine was appointed by Congress secretary to its committee on foreign affairs, a position he filled well enough until he was drawn into the extraordinary affair of Beaumarchais, who had been sending supplies to the United States as a front for the French government. Payment for these supplies was disputed. Silas Deane of Connecticut, American agent recalled from France, upheld Beaumarchais' claim. Congress, however, relying largely on Arthur Lee of Virginia, who was still in France, refused payment. Deane, denied what he considered justice by Congress, rashly took to the newspapers in his own defense. Paine replied to Deane in the Philadelphia Packet, notably on December 15, 1778, January 2 and 9, 1779. In these letters Paine committed a double indiscretion: he supported his contentions by reference to documents (reports from Lee), to which his position gave him confidential access; and by his statement he made it appear that the French government had sent supplies to the United States while it was still at peace with Great Britain. Under pressure from the French minister in America, Paine resigned his position on January 8, 1779.

In November 1779 Paine was made clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly. He continued his Crisis writings, and in 1780 showed further his devotion to the revolutionary cause by heading with a subscription of \$500 out of a salary installment of \$1,600 a fund for the relief of Washington's army. In 1781 he accompanied John Laurens of South Carolina to France in search of further financial relief, and returned successfully in the same year with money and stores. Beyond his expenses, he got nothing for the trip, and was also obliged to give up his position in the Assembly. In 1784 New York State gave him a confiscated Loyalist farm of 277 acres at New Rochelle, and Pennsylvania 500 pounds in cash. For Paine's modest needs this was enough, and until 1787 he lived in Bordentown, New Jersey and in New York City.

In 1787 Paine went to Europe, where he lived partly in England and partly in France. With the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789, Paine became a self-appointed missionary of world revolution. His Rights of Man, Part I, 1791, Part II, February 1792, was an exposition of the "principles" of 1776 and 1789. It included an appeal to the English people to overthrow their monarchy and set up a republic. More than 200,000 copies of this pamphlet were sold in England by 1793. It was suppressed by the British government and Paine, safe in France, was outlawed as a traitor in December 1792. Opposing the Reign of Terror,

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance (2)

Paine was imprisoned in France on December 23, 1793, because he was an Englishman. He was released in November 1794 at the request of the new American minister, James Monroe. Paine's great work of his period was The Age of Reason (Part I, 1794; Part II, 1796). Often called an "atheist," Paine was actually a deist and in this work he set forth the metaphysical reasons for his belief.

In October 1802 Paine returned home to America, taking up residence at his cottage at New Rochelle. The last seven years of his life were spent partly in Bordentown, partly in New York City, and on his farm at New Rochelle. They were marked by poverty, declining health, and social ostracism. He died at New York City on June 8, 1809. Since consecrated ground was closed to the "infidel," he was buried in a corner of his farm in New Rochelle. In 1819 William Cobbett, to atone for his bitter attacks on Paine in the 1790's, had the latter's bones dug up, and took them back to England, intending to raise a great monument to the author of the Rights of Man. The monument was never erected, and on Cobbett's death in 1835, the bones passed into the hands of a receiver in probate. The court refused to regard them as an asset, and, with the coffin, they were acquired by a furniture dealer in 1844, at which point they are lost to history.

History of the Thomas Paine Cottage and Farm

This farm, originally containing 277 acres and once the property of Frederick Davoue, a Tory during the War for Independence, was confiscated by the State of New York and granted to Thomas Paine by act of legislature, 1784, in recognition of his "distinguished merit" and "eminent services rendered the United States in the progress of the late war." The large original stone farmhouse on the Davoue farm was destroyed by fire in 1793, during Paine's absence in France. The existing cottage was the home of Paine, October 1802 until 1806, when he moved to New York City because New Rochelle denied him the right to vote. He added a wing to the cottage in 1804. In 1809 Paine was buried just to the west of the present location of his cottage, and south of his present monument-about 25 feet south of the southerly line of Paine Avenue, the old lane to the Davoue's farmhouse. In 1819 Paine's body was removed from this grave and carried back to England. In 1908 the cottage was removed from its original site on the high ground about one-quarter of a mile east of its present location, to this site, when the Paine farmland was being partitioned into residential plots. The present land was once a part of Paine's farm.

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