

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Chew House, Cliveden
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Chew House (Cliveden)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 6401 Germantown Avenue, between Johnson & Cliveden Streets
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Philadelphia CODE: 101

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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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: National Trust for Historic Preservation
 STREET AND NUMBER: Decatur House, 748 Jackson Place, NW.
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Department of Records
 STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex
 STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Erected in 1763-64 the Chew House, or Cliveden, is a notable example of Late Georgian architecture.

The main house is two-and-a-half stories, with a full cellar, and measures 54 by 44 feet in size. The front exhibits the characteristic facade emphasis found in Georgian architecture: the front wall being built of regular ashlar gray stone masonry, and the others of rubble masonry stuccoed and grooved to simulate ashlar. The belt course, window sills, and lintels are made of dressed sandstone, and the lintels are grooved to simulate flat-keyed arches. The gable roof has arched dormers with flanking scrolls, a heavy cornice with prominent modillions, and five large urns are positioned on the roof. The large windows have 24 panes, and panelled shutters adorn the first floor windows.

The central pavilion on the front is narrow, measuring only twelve feet in width, and its heavy pediment rises from the cornice. The central door also has a pediment, which is supported by two flanking engaged Roman Doric columns.

The interior plan of Cliveden has the unusual monumentality that is gained by having an imposing entrance hall. Measuring 16 by 27 feet, with a 12-foot high ceiling, and well-lighted by a large window on each side of the entrance, the great hall is separated from the central stair hall at the rear by a screen of columns treated in the Doric manner, with triglyphs and recessed panels in metopes. A small office flanks either side of the entrance hall at the front, and the two main rooms at the back are the large dining room (left) and the drawing room (right). There is also a secondary stair and service hall, to the left. Kitchen and service rooms were originally in two detached two-story wings situated in the rear of the main house.

The second floor has a 12-foot-wide central hall that extends from front to back. On either side are two bedrooms and on the west side is a smaller hall containing the secondary stairway.

The kitchen and servants' quarters were originally in the detached two-story wings at the rear. A two-story wing was attached to the rear of the house, adjoining the western service wing. There is an early barn in the rear of the house as well, part of which has been converted into an office.

The six acres of grounds are magnificently kept, with occasional pieces of ornamental statuary.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1763-64, Battle of Germantown 1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cliveden, built from 1763-64 as the country estate of Benjamin Chew, stands as both an excellent example of Late Georgian architecture, and as the most important surviving landmark of the hardfought battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. In that action, Washington's army narrowly missed winning a significant victory over a large contingent of the British army guarding the northwestern approaches to a newly-occupied Philadelphia. Although undecisive in its immediate military results, the battle of Germantown had vast political implications in that, combined with the victory at Saratoga that same month, it proved to be a major influence in the consummation of the alliance with France that spelled final victory for the new American nation.

The two-and-a-half story Chew mansion is constructed of Germantown stone, with a detailed facade and an imposing entrance hall. It is located on six acres of grounds at 6401 Germantown Avenue.

History

The Chew House was built in 1763-64 by Benjamin Chew, then Attorney General of Pennsylvania, at Cliveden, his country estate. With the outbreak of the Revolution, Chew, whose patriotism was doubted, was relieved of his political duties, and was paroled to New Jersey. Thus on October 4, 1777, it was not Chew, but Colonel Musgrave and six companies of British infantry who were occupying Cliveden. This outpost was a full mile in advance of the main British line which Howe had positioned in Germantown to defend Philadelphia from Washington's forces which were encamped on Skippack Creek to the northwest. Washington began his attack on the night of March 3 in a march on Germantown. His forces were divided into two columns, one under Sullivan, and the other under Greene, while Lord Stirling held his troops in reserve. Sullivan arrived at Germantown at dawn, and despite the heavy fog, pushed back the enemy outguards until he reached Cliveden. Greene, however, lost his direction and arrived late on the scene. As the colonials attacked Musgrave barricaded his troops in the Chew House and stoutly resisted the assault. Knox, commanding the American artillery, blew in the main entrance, but his fire had little effect on the solid masonry walls. Musgrave continued to hold out while Sullivan pushed on to attack the main British line. In the ensuing engagement, Sullivan's troops were mistakenly fired upon by fellow soldiers and then for reasons not entirely clear, their line broke. Greene was forced to extricate his forces and retreat back to Skippack Creek. Cliveden had not fallen. (Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. R. Alden, The American Revolution 1775-1783 (New York, 1954); Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952); Orville T. Murphy, "The Battle of Germantown and the Franco-American Alliance of 1778," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, LXXXII, No. 1 (January, 1958); Christopher Ward, The American Revolution, 2 vols. (New York, 1952), 1.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM 18.484510.4432800

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5.4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, Landmark Review Project DATE: 8/14/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

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

Date _____

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Commission

Arch. Service

Comelius Lewis 9/17/75

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Philadelphia	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

Chew House, Cliveden

Boundary

Beginning at the SW corner of E. Johnson Street and Germantown Avenue 380' NW along Germantown Avenue to E. Cliveden Street, then NE 590' along Cliveden Street, to Morton Street, then SE 335' along Morton Street to E. Johnson Street, then SW 790' along East Johnson Street to beginning point. Consisting of approximately 235,650 sq. ft. or 5.4 acres, more or less.

This parcel of land encloses the Chew House and its grounds which are bounded by the quadrilateral formed by the intersections of the parallel streets, Johnson and Cliveden with Germantown Avenue on the West, and Morton Street on the East.

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Pennsylvania

COUNTY

Philadelphia

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

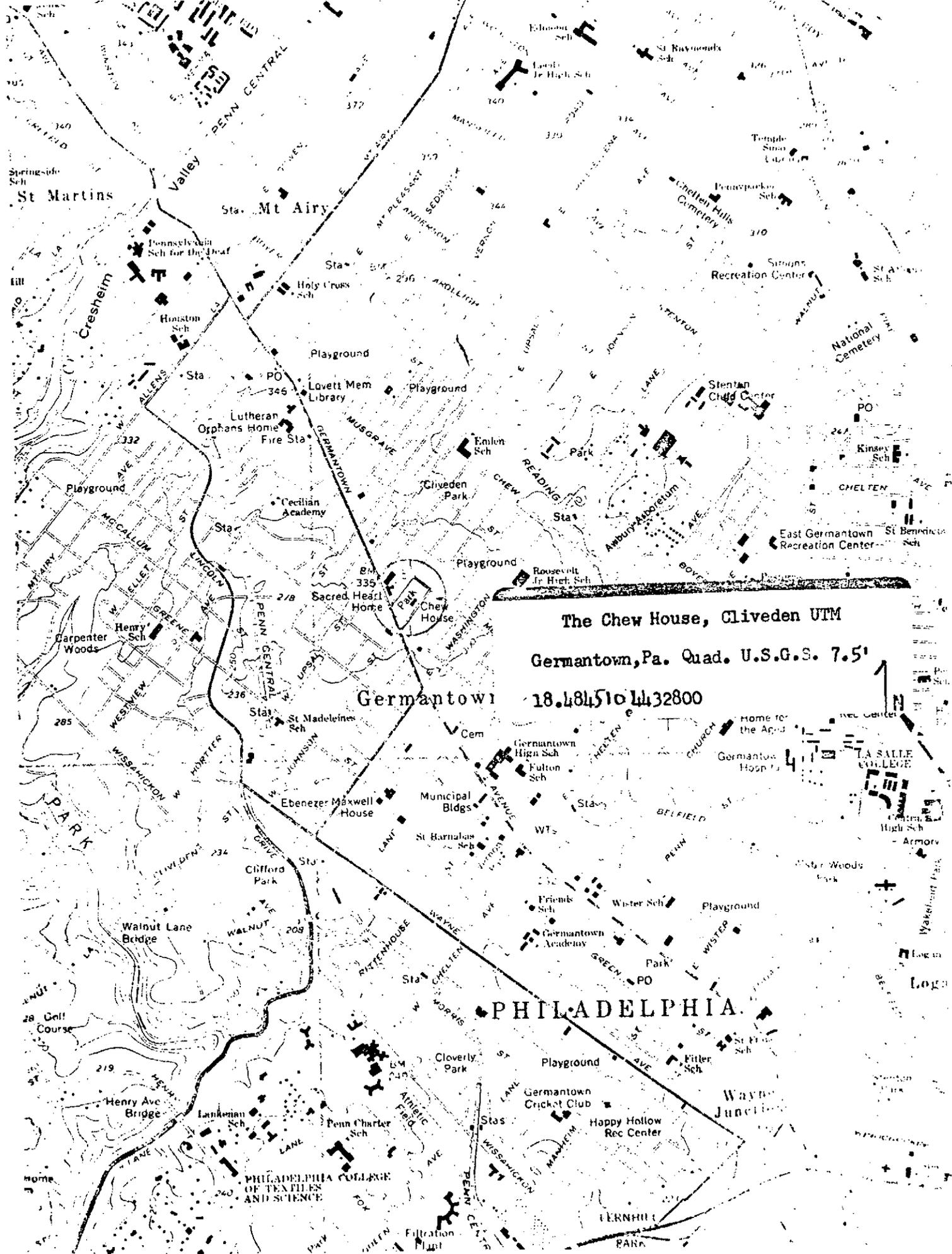
(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance: (1)

Chew House, Cliveden

The battle of Germantown was not a disaster for the American army although it was a defeat, for despite two defeats in the preceding few weeks, they had stubbornly attacked, and might have succeeded if not for the misfortune of heavy fog and confusion. As an illustration of determination and resilience, the battle of Germantown was a prime factor, with the battle of Saratoga that same month, in securing French aid.

Benjamin Chew was allowed to return to his home the following year, and he spent over a year and a half repairing the damage the house sustained in the battle. Lafayette and Washington, as well as many other notables were entertained at Cliveden, which remained in the hands of the Chew family until 1972 when it was acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



The Chew House, Cliveden UTM
Germantown, Pa. Quad. U.S.G.S. 7.5'
18.484510 4432800

Germantown

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AND SCIENCE

LA SALLE
COLLEGE