

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE New Jersey, Pennsylvania	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. X, The War for Independence
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Washington Crossing State Parks	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 500 in Pa., 372 in N. J.
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) New Jersey - Mercer County, State route 546, on Delaware River south of Titusville.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of New Jersey, Department of Conservation and Economic Development.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

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Washington's crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776, for the brilliant raid on Trenton, was a crucial episode in the struggle for independence. Despite the almost legendary character which the event has assumed in the American tradition it was a realistic and carefully planned stroke to rescue a waning cause. By his daring act Washington carried the war to the enemy and gave the new nation and his often-defeated army a taste of victory at the war's lowest ebb.

On the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, the well-maintained State Park of approximately 500 acres preserves the site of the embarkation of Washington's main force. On the river bank is the old Ferry Inn, the present structure being superimposed on the original ferry house of the Revolutionary period. In the Park is Emanuel Leutze's famous painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware," displayed in the auditorium of the handsome memorial building. Whatever the artistic merits and historical accuracy of the picture, it constitutes an inspiring interpretation of the event in spirit if not in factual detail. The Washington Crossing Monument, erected in 1916, overlooks the embarkation site. At Bowman's Hill, a detached section of the Park four miles north of the crossing site, is preserved the Thompson-Neely House, headquarters of American officers in 1776. The older section of the house was built in 1702 and the building is furnished and open to the public. At the old mill near the Thompson-Neely house, grain was ground for the American army. Beneath the memorial flagstaff are the graves of unknown American soldiers who died during the encampment of 1776. The Bowman's Hill section of the Park also contains a state wildflower preserve and a memorial observation tower.

(cont'd)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
 Alfred H. Bill, The Campaign of Princeton, 1776-1777 (Princeton, 1948);
 George Athan Billias, General John Glover and His Marblehead Mariners (New York, 1960); Leonard Lundin, Cockpit of the Revolution: The War for Independence in New Jersey, (Princeton, 1940); Christopher Ward, The American Revolution, 2 vols. (New York, 1952), I.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)
 Alden T. Cottrell, "The Trenton Battle Monument and Washington's Campaign, December 26, 1776 to January 3, 1777", pamphlet (New Jersey Department of Conservation and Economic Development, Trenton, (1947); Washington Crossing Park, Bucks County, Pennsylvania", leaflet (Penn. Dept. of Forests and Waters, n.p., n.d.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) State Parks	13. DATE OF VISIT 4/7/60
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)  C. E. Shedd, Jr.	15. TITLE Historic Sites Historian	16. DATE 8/1/60	

* 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

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
New Jersey, Pennsylvania	Washington Crossing State Parks

5. Exact Location (cont'd)

Pennsylvania - Bucks County, on State routes 32 and 532, on Delaware River a community of Washington Crossing.

6. Name and Address of Present Owner (cont'd)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Forests and Waters, Washington Crossing State Park Commission.

7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

On the New Jersey side of the river is a 372-acre State Park preserving the scene of the landing above Trenton. A short distance from the river bank is the McKonkey Ferry House, now a museum. An interesting Park feature is the preserved trace of the old road used by the American Army in its march from the river bank. Trees planted on either side of the "Continental Lane" preserve this historic roadway.

The Parks on either side of the Delaware, connected by an automobile bridge, constitute an outstanding preservation of a key site in the winning of American independence.