

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware
COUNTY: New Castle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lombardy Hall (Gunning Bedford House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pizgah (prior to 1785)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Concord Pike (Route 202) north of Foulk Road (Route 261)

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Delaware** CODE: COUNTY: **New Castle** 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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	anticipated
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	not presently	use as museum
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	in use	and meeting hall.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Granite Lodge No. 34, A.F. & A.M., Mr. T. Leslie Williams, Secretary

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 7036

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **19803**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
Eleventh and King Streets

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **19801**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **1. Historical Buildings and Areas, New Castle County**
2. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware

DATE OF SURVEY: **1. 6-30-67 2. 6-30-72** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **1. New Castle County Engineering Building**
2. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

STREET AND NUMBER: **1. Robert Kirkwood Highway**
2. Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: **1. Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware 19808** CODE: **19808**
2. Dover STATE: **Delaware 19901** CODE: **19901**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Theme:
Signers of the Constitution

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1785, Gunning Bedford, Jr., purchased a 250-acre farm named Pizgah from Charles Robinson, a great-grandson of the grantee of William Penn's "Manor of Rocklands." On this farm stood a small stone house dating from 1750 or shortly before. It consisted of four rooms, two on each floor, with a right-side entrance and a hallway connecting the front and rear doors. Behind a wall cupboard in a rear room on the ground floor there remains the lintel of an old doorway, which suggests that the interior originally lacked paneling. As for the severely plain exterior, Eberlein and Hubbard have noted that "the absence of outside architectural amenities on a presumably Georgian body is suggestive of a prevalent Quaker influence."

Bedford occupied the house in 1793, renaming it Lombardy Hall. Although he kept his town house at 606 Market Street in Wilmington (which is still extant, but drastically altered), he resided at Lombardy periodically for the remainder of his life. He effected one major change, the southern addition consisting of a ballroom downstairs and two bedrooms above, thereby creating a symmetrical five-bay facade. The Brandywine gabbro stone in the "Bedford section" was skillfully matched to the older portion, although the location of the original south wall is evident from the vertical line of mortar in both the facade and in the fieldstone north wall. The exterior dimensions of the house are 30 by 46 feet, and the entire tract now comprises about 1-1/2 acres.

Since 1968 Lombardy Hall has been owned by the Lombardy Hall Foundation, an affiliate of the Wilmington Masonic Order, whose interest in Bedford stems from his having been the first Grand Master of the Delaware Masons. So far, the exterior has been restored to much the way it looked in Bedford's time (except, of course, for the garage attached to the south side). Chimneys have been repaired and seven new flues installed. The slate roof has been replaced, as have the front door, most of the 3 over 9 windows, and the shutters. The moldings have been restored, and two non-original windows of the north wall filled in. The south exterior wall and the rear still require attention, and the interior needs a great deal of work, although the original chair rails, cornice moldings, stairs, banisters, and much of the paneling are in good condition. The windows of the "Robinson section" are recessed in 18-inch walls at right angles, while in Bedford's addition they are set in wide-angled paneled recesses. The door to the ballroom repeats this motif. In the ballroom there is also an Adam-style mantel, delicately carved and shelved at each end. The only significant interior alteration is the addition of a bathroom off the second floor hall.

A large portico and wing with a separate entrance, added around 1820, was removed before the end of the 19th century. The garage, dating from the 1920s, is built out of stone recovered from a demolished barn

(continued)

13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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

Gunning Bedford, Jr., was a leading figure in Delaware politics during the 1780s, filling several State posts, then serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress, the Annapolis Convention, and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. At Philadelphia he attained national prominence, largely as the result of an oration which James Madison characterized as the "most intemperate speech uttered in the Convention." Unless the new Constitution provided adequate protection for the rights of the small States, Bedford declared, "there are foreign powers who will take us by the hand." Many of Bedford's fellow delegates were profoundly shocked that, in the words of Rufus King, he had "declared himself ready to ... court the protection of some foreign land." Nevertheless, it was the protests of small-State partisans such as Bedford which eventually led to the Convention's acceptance of a legislative structure putting all States on an equal footing in the Senate.

Bedford lived out the remainder of his life in relative obscurity as a Federal judge. During the two decades prior to his death, he frequently entertained his many illustrious friends at his country home, Lombardy Hall. Now, after years of neglect, Lombardy Hall is under restoration and the exterior appears much as it did in Bedford's time. It is anticipated that the entire project will be completed by 1976, at which time Lombardy Hall will be opened to the public as a library and museum.

Biography

The political philosophy of Gunning Bedford, Jr., stood him considerably to the left of most of the other delegates to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787, at least of the ones who actually signed the Constitution (16 of those delegated did not sign). James Madison, his one-time college roommate, noted that "Mr. Bedford was opposed to every check on the Legislative" and believed that "The Representatives of the People were the best judges of what was for their interest, and ought to be under no external controul [sic] whatever." Bedford was also determined to assert the rights of the small States, even hinting that they might have to seek foreign

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alden, Edmund K., "Gunning Bedford," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. II, p. 123.

Beard, Charles A., An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States (New York, 1913).

Brandywine Hundred Chapter #174--The Questers, Inc., "Gunning Bedford, Jr., and His Home Lombardy Hall" (ms., n.d.).

(continued)

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	46'	53"	75°	32'	41"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-1/2 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:
Robert C. Post, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 7/2/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L 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>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	--

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (page 1) Lombardy Hall (Gunning Bedford House)

and carriage house. The Lombardy Hall Foundation plans either to remove it entirely, or keep it as a meeting hall with the roofline rebuilt to match that of the house. Serving as consultants for the restoration are a Wilmington architectural firm and also the Delaware Archeological Society. The organization which is financing it is deeply concerned with authenticity and plans to spend some \$46,000 prior to completion in 1976.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (page 1) Lombardy Hall (Gunning Bedford House)

protection if the Constitution permitted legislative domination by the more populous States.

This was naturally a major concern of the entire Delaware delegation. However, Bedford himself was a relative newcomer to the State, having settled there only eight years before at the age of 32. Born in Philadelphia in 1747, he graduated as class valedictorian from Nassau Hall (now Princeton University) in 1771, read law back in Philadelphia, and set up practice. In 1779 he moved to Dover, and shortly thereafter to Wilmington. During the 1780s, Bedford served successively as a member of the State Legislature and the State Council, as State Attorney General, and as a delegate to the Continental Congress, the Annapolis Convention, the Philadelphia Convention, and the Delaware Convention of Ratification.

Bedford's role at Philadelphia seems to be a matter of some disagreement. Charles Beard insists he "did not participate extensively in the debates," while Edmund K. Alden contends he "played a considerable part" and expounded his radical views "often and with emphasis." The latter estimate seems the more viable, especially since it would have contradicted Beard's preconceptions about the Convention to have suggested that Bedford, a man of marked democratic propensities, was an influential figure there.

There is little doubt that on one occasion at least Bedford made his presence most conspicuous. Madison regarded his speech of June 30, 1787, in which he suggested that there were "Foreign Powers who will take [the small states] by the hand" if the Convention decided to apportion both branches of Congress on the basis of population, as the "most intemperate ... uttered in the Convention." Be that as it may, Bedford evidently deserves much of the credit for persuading his fellow delegates to consider and eventually to adopt the provision whereby each State was given equal representation in the Senate. Beyond that, although pietistic accounts sometimes praise Bedford for inducing Delaware to become the first State to ratify the new Constitution, in fact it was ready to do so with no persuasion at all. Bedford's big moment had come during the Convention, and after returning to Delaware he passed the remainder of his life in relative obscurity.

In 1789 President Washington appointed him Judge of the Federal District Court, and he held this post until his death 23 years later. While never again a figure of national stature, Bedford did enjoy the companionship of a large circle of prominent friends, many of whom he entertained at Lombardy Hall, his country home north of Wilmington. It was here that Bedford died in 1812.

12

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical References (page 1) Lombardy Hall (Gunning Bedford House)

Conrad, Henry C., "Gunning Bedford, Jr., Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware, Vol. XXVI (Wilmington, 1900).

Eberlein, H. D., and C. V. D. Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware (Dover, 1963).

Farrand, Max, The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 (4 Vols., New Haven, 1911-1937).

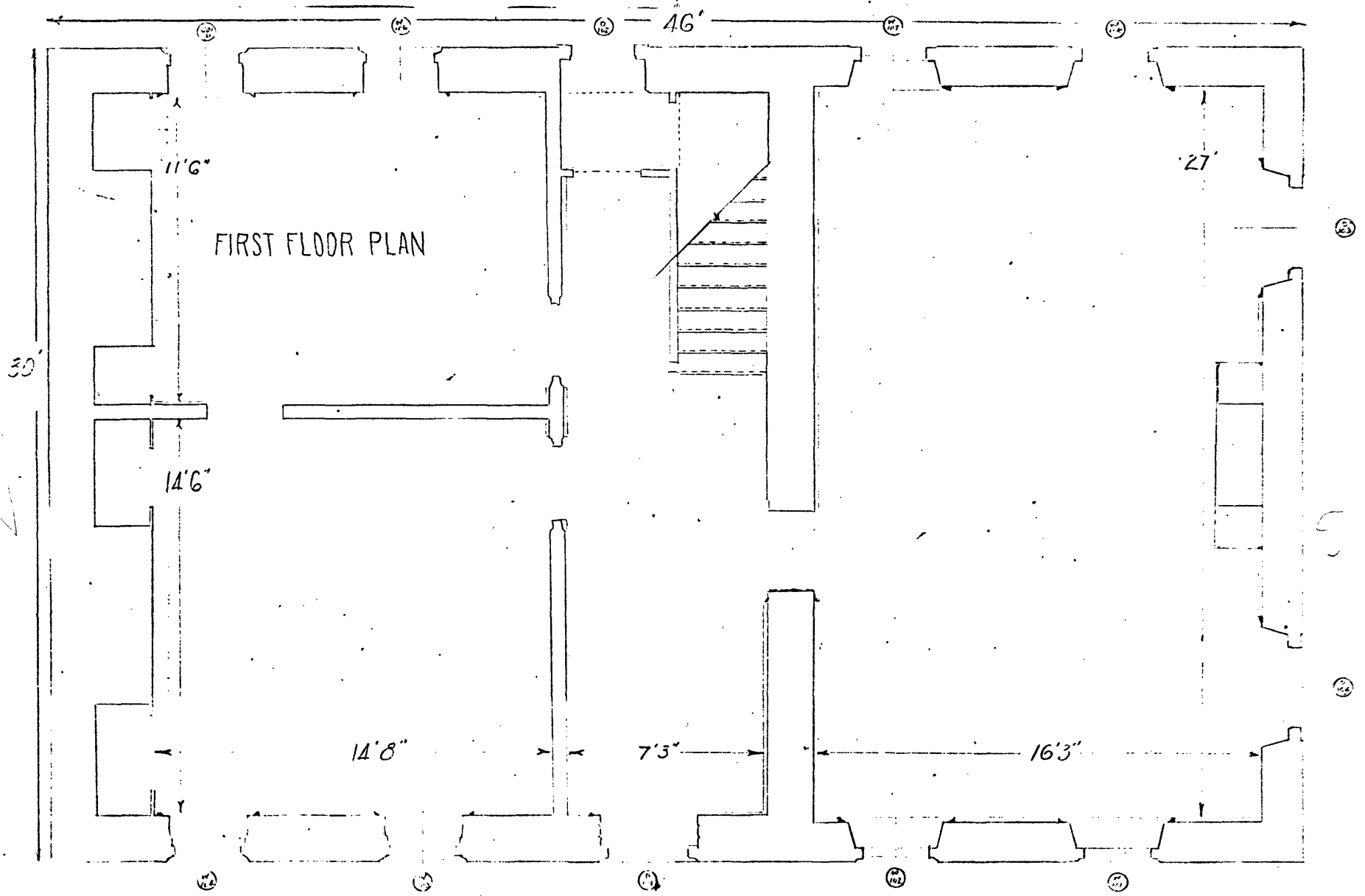
Federal Writers' Project, Delaware: A Guide to the First State (New York, 1937).

Lombardy Hall Foundation, Lombardy Hall (pamphlet, n.p., n.d.).

Rossiter, Clinton, 1787: The Grand Convention (New York, 1966).

LOMBARDY HALL
WILMINGTON, DEL.

E



LOMBARDY HALL
WILMINGTON, DEL.

