

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lehigh	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:	George Taylor Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC:	George Taylor House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Front Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Catasauqua			
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE	COUNTY: Lehigh	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"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<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) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Scott A. Trexler, President, Lehigh County Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Trout Hall, Allen Park			
CITY OR TOWN: Allentown	18102	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lehigh County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Hamilton Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Allentown		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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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

Built by Philadelphia carpenters in 1768, the George Taylor Mansion is a two-story-over-elevated basement Georgian stone house with symmetrically paired brick end-chimneys and a gable roof with flattered ridge. The walls, 24 inches thick, are of stone masonry rubble and finished with a thick slaked-line stucco that gives the house its white appearance. The windows are topped by flat arches of gauged brick; those on the first story are adorned by exterior solid panelled shutters and the openings on the upper floor have louvered blinds. A heavy overhanging cornice runs completely around the structure at eave level. The two-story stone kitchen wing which adjoins the main house at the south end was built on the main axis around 1800.

The main house, rectangular in shape, is five bays wide and two bays deep. A flight of marble pyramidal steps leads up to the center door in the west or main facade. Topped by a rectangular transom and a triangular pediment, the double door opens into a central hall that extends through the house. The hall is divided near midpoint by means of an archway with fluted pilasters. The stairs are located in the rear portion of the hall and are set against the north (left) wall. The hall divides the four first-floor rooms into pairs: The living room and parlor are on the left and the dining room and reception (or service) room on the right. Doors in the parlor, living room, and dining room are topped by finely executed pediments and their fireplace walls are fully panelled. Other walls in these rooms have panelled wainscots and finely detailed chair rails. The dining room fireplace panelling and mantle date from the early 19th century and are of the Greek Revival period, but the other first-floor panelling and mantles are original (18th century). The floors of wide pine boards are original as is most of the iron hardware.

The second floor contains four bedrooms and two small dressing rooms. The two bedrooms on the west (front) side of the house have almost as elaborate panelling at their fireplaces as those downstairs. The attic was unfinished. A short distance to the east or rear of the house is a 1½-story brick summer kitchen which was built around 1850. The mansion has been carefully restored, is in excellent condition, and is open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1768-1776

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 | <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 stone house was the home of George Taylor, a Signers of the Declaration of Independence for Pennsylvania, ironmaster, and politician, from 1768 to March 1776. Built for Taylor in 1768, the little-altered house has been carefully restored and is open to visitors.

A Brief Sketch of the Life of George Taylor, 1716-1781

Born in 1716, probably in northern Ireland, George Taylor came to Pennsylvania as an indentured servant in 1736. He was put to work as a clerk at the Warwick Iron Furnace and Coventry Forge in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and by 1739 had become manager of this 1796-acre plantation. In 1742 he married Mrs. Anne Taylor Savage, widow of the ironmaster for whom Taylor had been working. About 1757 Taylor moved to the Durham Furnace, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which he and a partner leased. From 1757 to 1778 Taylor's business interests were to be largely centered on the 8511-acre Durham plantation, which was located about 10 miles south of Easton, Pennsylvania.

After 1763, however, Taylor lived much of the time at or near Easton, in Northampton County, which became the scene of his political activities. From 1769 to 1770 he was a member of the Pennsylvania assembly. In July 1775 he was elected to a colonelcy in the Bucks County militia. Sent to the Pennsylvania Assembly in October 1775, Taylor served with distinction on important committees and helped draft instructions to delegates to the Continental Congress in November. On July 20, 1776, Taylor was appointed to the Continental Congress with Clymer, Ross, Rush, and Smith to replace the Pennsylvania delegates who refused to sign the Declaration of Independence. Taylor signed the engrossed copy of that document on August 2, or thereafter, but took no other part in the activities of Congress, except to represent it, with George Walton, at a conference with Indians at Easton in January 1777. Taylor evidently quit Congress soon afterward. In March 1777 he was elected from Northampton County to the new Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, but because of illness he served only six weeks and then retired from active public affairs.

From August 1775 to 1778 Taylor was also greatly involved in the production at the Durham Furnace of grape shot, cannon balls, bar shot, and cannon for the Revolutionary armies. In 1778 Taylor was dispossessed of his lease of the Durham Furnace (which had been owned by the Philadelphia Loyalist John Galloway) by the Commissioner of Forfeited Estates. Taylor then leased the Greenwich Forge in Greenwich Township, New Jersey, which he

Continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVIII, 324-25; Article by Joseph E. Johnson.

Dorothy H. McGee, Famous Signers of the Declaration (New York, 1955), 168-69.

Mildred R. Trexler, "Geroge Taylor, Esquire," John K. Heyl, "A Brief Analysis of the Construction of George Taylor's Mansion at Chawton Manor, now Catasauqua, Pennsylvania," Proceedings of the Lehigh County Historical Society (Allentown, Pa., 1968), 1-74.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	40° 38' 52"	75° 27' 59"		
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 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: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian	
ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE 2/16/71
STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N. W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE D.C.

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.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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George Taylor Mansion

8. Significance

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operated until 1781. In April 1780 he moved from the Greenwich Forge to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he died on February 23, 1781. He was buried in the churchyard of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Easton. On April 30, 1870, his body was moved to its present site in the Easton Cemetery and reburied by a tall monument that had been erected in his honor in 1854.

History of the George Taylor Mansion

In 1767 George and Anne Taylor purchased a 331 acre tract of land called the "Manor of Chawton," in what is now a part of Catasauqua. Here, on the east bank of the Lehigh River and located about 15 miles west of Easton, they built a home in 1768. It was in this stone house later in the same year that Mrs. Taylor died. In 1771 Taylor leased most of the land out as a farm and in March 1776 he sold the house and land to John Benezet, a Philadelphia merchant. The Taylor House and five acres of land were acquired by the Lehigh County Historical Society in 1945. The Taylor House was restored under the direction of John K. Heyl in 1966-1968 and is now open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

A state historical marker, located on Front Street at Poplar Street, on block below the house reads: "GEORGE TAYLOR HOUSE

The home of the Signer of the Declaration of Independence is just opposite to the rear of the Mill Building. Built in 1768, now owned by the Lehigh County Historical Society."

240

29"

27' 00"

29"

25° 27' 59"

83

40° 37' 30"

03"

40° 37' 113"

40° 38' 53"

Catasangwa, Pa.
1964