

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
General Benjamin Lincoln House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
181 North Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hingham

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: COUNTY: Plymouth CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Mrs. Elizabeth Beveridge

STREET AND NUMBER:
181 North Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hingham STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse (Deed up to 1800 located in Boston)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Plymouth STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (13 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

186

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General Benjamin Lincoln House is a rectangular-shaped, two-story frame structure with a gable roof, two interior fireplaces, and clapboarded walls. This organic growth house reached its final form in three steps. Thomas Lincoln started the dwelling in 1637 by erecting that portion of the present house which now comprises the two rooms (the early kitchen and borning, now small dining, room) in the northeast corner. In 1715 the house was greatly enlarged and given an L-shape by the addition of a large kitchen on the main axis at the west end of the original house, and, also, by building a new main dining room and stair hall on the south (front) side of the new kitchen. In 1790 General Lincoln added the present center stairhall and parlor in the southeast (front) corner of the house. His additions brought the structure to its present rectangular shape, with the rooms arranged in two tiers. Seven-bays wide and two-bays deep, the 1790 additions gave the main (south) facade a balanced Georgian appearance.

The center door, topped by a flat pediment, opens into the 1790 stair hall, which extends half way through the house. To the right (east) of the hall is the large 1790 parlor and to the north (behind) are the 1637 kitchen and 1637 borning room or small dining room. The fireplaces walls in these three rooms are fully panelled; there is wainscoting on the other walls, and the floors are of wide board. The early kitchen contains a stairs, and fireplace in the front parlor is faced with blue deft tiles. To the left (west) of the center hall is a smaller 1715 stair hall (The house has seven stairs!) and beyond this, the 1715 main dining room, which also has a fully panelled fireplace wall and wainscoting on the other walls. Behind (north) of the main dining room is the large kitchen which was added in 1715. There are seven bedrooms on the second floor.

The house has been in the possession of the same family for more than 300 years, has undergone very few alterations, and has never been restored. The house is furnished with the original Lincoln furniture and contains many of the General's personal items. Used as a private residence, the General Benjamin Lincoln House is not open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planing
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Lonscope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humon-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literoture	itorion	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportotion	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The home from 1733 to 1810 of Benjamin Lincoln, Major General of the Continental Army during the War for Independence.

History

Benjamin Lincoln was born in Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1733. He received only a common-school education in Hingham; he married in 1756 and had 11 children by this union. In July 1755 Lincoln became an adjutant of the 3rd Regiment of Suffolk County; he was commissioned major in 1762, and lieutenant colonel in 1772. A farmer, Lincoln was chosen town clerk in 1757 and justice of the peace in 1762. He was a member of the Massachusetts legislature in 1772 and 1773 and sat in the provincial congress of 1774 and 1775. He was elected secretary of that body and a member of the committee on supplies, and for a short time in 1775, during the absence of Joseph Warren, he acted as its president.

In February 1776 Lincoln was appointed a brigadier general in the Massachusetts militia and promoted to major general in May 1776. On August 2, 1776 he was given the command of the Massachusetts troops stationed near Boston and in September 1776 was placed in command of *the* militia division sent to reinforce Washington's army at New York. Lincoln took part in the operations around White Plains and won Washington's good opinion. On February 19, 1777 Lincoln was made a major-general in the Continental Army and in June served with Washington's army in the operations around Philadelphia. In July Washington ordered him to join the Northern army and assist Major General Philip Schuyler in opposing the advance of Burgoyne's army. Arriving at Saratoga on July 30, Lincoln's orders from Schuyler, dated July 31, read as follows:

"Col. (Seth) Warner is on the Grants (Vermont) with a small body of Continental troops, some militia, and expects to be reinforced in a day or two by Gen. (John) Stark, with a body of militia from New Hampshire. You will please to repair to Manchester (Vermont), the place where the troops above mentioned are collected and collecting, and take the command of the whole. As General Burgoyne is advancing towards us, and a movement of a body of troops from the Grants towards Skenesboro (Whitehall,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI, 259-261.

Massachusetts, A Guide to Its Place and People (American Guide Series)
(Boston, 1937), 622.

Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution (2 vols., New York, 1952),
I, 260, 321, 329, 334, 420, 424, 497, II, 500, 523-24, 532, 561,
594, 681-705, 712, 715, 719, 748, 880, 886, 894.

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	42	14	35	70	53	35
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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: 2/18/72

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

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

195

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) General Benjamin Lincoln House

New York) will doubtless much embarrass him, and will certainly oblige him to leave a considerable force at that place, you will move towards it, if the troops you should find there, or those that may join, are in such numbers as that you can do it without risking too much..."

Proceedings of a General Court Martial...of Major General Schuyler, October 1, 1778," Collections of the New York Historical Society for the Year 1879 (New York, 1880), 182.

Stark arrived at Manchester with some 1,500 New Hampshire militia on August 7, but refused to place himself under Lincoln's command or to join Schuyler's main army at Stillwater, New York, as requested. On August 9 Stark moved to Bennington, Vermont, when he operated as an independent command. Until September 14, Lincoln remained at Manchester with about 500 men, the Green Mountain Continental Rangers and some Massachusetts militia, to form the core of a new militia force to strike at Burgoyne's flank and rear. By September 10 Lincoln had collected a force of 2,100 Massachusetts militia and on the 11th advanced to Pawlet, Vermont. From here, on the 12th and 13th, where he remained with 600 men to cover the retreat, he launched his thunderbolt on the British rear--three divisions of 500 men each in a great raid.

The British with 1000 men, half English and half Germans, held Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence on Lake Champlain. Moving secretly through the forests Colonel Woodbridge's detachment was to strike at Skenesborough (Whitehall) and then move south through Fort Ann and to Fort Edward; Colonel Johnson's force was to strike at Mount Independence, and Colonel John Brown's division to hit at the north end of Lake George and then move north on Fort Ticonderoga. Emerging from the forests on the morning of September 18, the Americans took the enemy completely by surprise: 293 British soldiers were captured on the Ticonderoga side and 100 Americans held captive there freed. 150 batteaux, used to supply Burgoyne's army, were destroyed on Lake Champlain and 50 more batteaux, 17 gun boats, and one armed sloop on Lake George were captured. The Americans lay siege to Ticonderoga and Mount Independence from September 18 to September 22. Lacking artillery, they then withdrew. Colonel Brown's force sailed south on Lake George with 20 of the batteau, 2 guns boats, and the sloop, having destroyed the other craft. On the 24th Brown made a surprise attack on Diamond Island in Lake George, where 200 British and German soldiers with 10 cannon were stationed. After about an hour's engagement, Brown sailed to the east shore of Lake George, destroyed his boats, and retreated over the mountains to Skenesborough.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (2) General Benjamin Lincoln House

On the 20th, the day after the First Battle of Saratoga, Lincoln received orders from Horatio Gates, now commanding the Northern army, to join the main army at Bemis Heights with his Massachusetts militia. Lincoln arrived in camp on September 22, leaving Colonel Seth Warner's Green Mountain Ranger Regiment and the Vermont militia at White Creek. On September 23 and 24 Lincoln's militia, now 1,689 men, poured into Gates' camp from the northern raid. Burgoyne's retreat via the lakes, if he could reach them, had been cut off. On September 25 Gates placed Lincoln in command of the right wing of the main army, which was comprised of Glover's, Nixon's and Paterson's Continental brigades--about 6,400 men. In the Second Battle of Saratoga, October 7, Lincoln reinforced the left wing, which did the fighting with units from his division and manned the American fortifications.

On October 8, Lincoln took John Glover's brigade, Henry Dearborn's Light Infantry and Daniel Morgan's Virginia riflemen, and began moving up the west side of the Hudson in an effort to block Burgoyne's retreat. While reconnoitering the rear of the British army for this purpose, Lincoln was badly wounded in the leg by a party of British, and the expedition then returned to the American camp. He was carried to Hingham, where he remained for some ten months. The leg was improperly set and when healed, was shorter than the other. He had to use a crutch in order to walk the remainder of his life.

In August 1778 Lincoln was declared fit for duty and rejoined Washington's army. On September 25, 1778, Lincoln was appointed to the command of the American army in the Southern department. Arriving at Purysburg, South Carolina, on the Savannah River, Lincoln's army in January 1779, totalled 3,639 men, of whom 1,121 were Continentals and the remainder militia. He maneuvered in between northern Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, until Admiral Comte d'Estaing with the French fleet and 6,000 soldiers arrived off Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River on September 8, 1779. The French began the siege of British-held Savannah on the 12th and on the 16th, marching from Charleston, Lincoln joined d'Estaing with 600 Continental troops and 750 militia. Approaches were begun on September 23 and guns were in their batteries by October 3. The Admiral, however, was impatient to leave and on October 9, 3,500 French soldiers and 1050 Americans attempted to storm the heavily fortified town. Defended by 3,200 British under the command of General Augustine Prevost, the main assault on the Spring Hill Redoubt was repulsed: the allies lost 16 officers and 228 men killed, 63 officers and 521 men wounded. The British lost 40 killed, 63 wounded, and 52 missing. Lincoln wished to continue the siege but d'Estaing would remain no longer. He returned his troops to his ships, sailed on October 20, and Lincoln was forced to march back to Charleston. The second attempt at Franco-American cooperation had failed, as had the first at Newport, Rhode Island in 1778.

(continued)

189

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (3) General Benjamin Lincoln House

With the departure of the French fleet, Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander-in-chief, loaded some 8,500 soldiers and 5,000 sailors on the British fleet at New York and sailed for Charleston on December 26, 1779. On February 11, 1780 he landed troops on Johns Island, 30 miles south of Charleston. On March 29, with his army increased to 10,000 men, Clinton crossed the Ashley River north of Charleston in force and broke ground within 1,800 yards of the American defenses on the Neck. By April 8 Charleston was almost completely invested; the only way open for Lincoln was across the Cooper River above Shute's Folly to the mainland east of the river and so north 30 miles to the position at Monck's Corner still held by General Isaac Huger with some 600 men. Lincoln, with about 2,650 Continentals and 2,500 militia, defended the three miles of fortified lines about Charleston. On April 14 Lincoln called his general officers together and told them he regarded the situation as desperate and contemplated evacuation of the city, but no decision was reached. On the same day the British captured and destroyed the American force at Monck's corner. At a council of war held on April 18 members of the Governor's Council told Lincoln that if the Continentals showed any signs of withdrawing, the townspeople would burn their boats, open the gates to the British, and assist them in attacking the American troops before they could get away. Lincoln held out until May 12, 1780. On the night of the 9th the British opened up a tremendous bombardment upon the city with nearly 200 guns. It was a night of horror that broke the spirit of the townsmen, who until now had resisted submission, and they now petitioned Lincoln for surrender. Lincoln then accepted Clinton's terms. The Continental troops were to be prisoners of war. The militia were to be allowed to go to their homes, being regarded with the armed citizens on parole. At eleven o'clock on the morning of May 12, 1780, all the Continental marched out, with colors cased and drums beating a Turkish march, and piled their arms beside the Citadel. The militia followed them later in the day and also gave up their arms. So Clinton took the town, 5,466 Continental, militia, and armed citizens, 391 guns, 5,916 muskets, 15 regimental colors, 33,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, over 8,000 round shot, 376 barrels of powder, all the remaining American vessels, and a great quantity of military stores, at a cost of only 76 men killed and 189 wounded. Lincoln's losses were also light, 89 Continentals killed and 138 wounded. Among the militia there were not more than a dozen casualties. This surrender was one of the greatest disasters suffered by the Americans during the War for Independence.

Lincoln was paroled and allowed to proceed north, but there were delays and he did not reach Philadelphia until July 1780. He asked for a court of inquiry to investigate his conduct at Charleston, but the court was never held and no charges were ever pressed. Returning to his home at

(continued)

190

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (4) General Benjamin Lincoln House

Hingham, he anxiously awaited exchange so that he might join the army again. In November he was formally exchanged for the British general, William Phillips, who had been captured at Saratoga. During the winter he remained in Massachusetts raising recruits and supplies, but the following summer he was once more in the field, operating under Washington in the neighborhood of New York. Commanding the main army which at the end of August 1781, marched southward to join in the Yorktown campaign, Lincoln took part in the siege of Yorktown. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis, pretending sickness, remained sulking in his tent and sent General Charles O'Hara to surrender the British army, whereupon General Washington ordered his second in command, Lincoln, to accept the surrender of the 7,241 British and German soldiers, 840 seamen, and 244 cannon. On October 30, 1781 Lincoln was made secretary of war by the Continental Congress, an office which he held until his resignation just two years later, after the signing of the Treaty of Peace. He resigned his commission as a major general on October 28, 1783.

Lincoln now returned to his farm at Hingham. He engaged in speculation in wild lands in Maine, a venture which nearly brought him to financial ruin. He made frequent trips to Maine and in 1784 and 1786 was one of the Massachusetts commissioners to treat with the Penobscot Indians concerning land purchases. About January 1, 1787 he was appointed to lead the state troops to suppress Shay's Rebellion. The legislature planned to raise 5,000 men and when it failed to provide the money, Lincoln personally raised about \$20,000 among some citizens of Boston to finance the campaign. He then marched to Worcester, where trouble was expected at the next session of the court, but no violence occurred, and he went on to the assistance of General Shepherd who was defending the Federal armory at Springfield. Within a month the two insurgent forces under Day and Shay had been dispersed. On the night of February 2, Lincoln made his famous night march through a terrible snow storm to Petersham, where he captured 150 men, the remnant of Shay's band, and brought the rebellion to an end. He now proved his statesmanship by urging the legislature to be lenient with the rebels, making an example of a few ringleaders only, but his advice was not accepted.

In 1788 he was a member of the state convention which ratified the new Federal Constitution, which he supported. In the same year he was elected lieutenant governor and when defeated for that office in 1789, he was appointed to the federal office of collector of the port of Boston, a post accompanied by a salary which was most welcome in his now straitened circumstances. In 1789, also, he was one of the federal commissioners appointed to treat with the Creek Indians on the borders of the Southern States, and in 1793 was a member of a similar commission to negotiate with the Indians north of the Ohio. He retired from the collectorship of Boston March 1, 1809 and died on May 9, 1810 at Hingham, where he was buried.