

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington's Headquarters

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Washington's Headquarters (Isaac Potts House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Valley Creek Road, near junction of State Routes 252 and 23

CITY OR TOWN:
Valley Forge State Park, Valley Forge

STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: COUNTY: **Montgomery** 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**
Admin. Mr. Horace Willcox, Superintendent, Valley Forge State Park Commission.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Valley Forge** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **19481**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Norristown** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (7 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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
(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

Washington's Headquarters, or the Potts House, is a two-story, four-room structure with gabled roof and about 22-feet wide and 27-feet deep. Constructed of cut graystone, the main house has two chimneys set in the south end wall and a small (22-by 13-foot) one-and-a-half-story stone wing built on the main axis on the north side. Pent eaves extend across the gable ends of the main house at the third floor level.

First floor windows in the three-bay-wide west (front) facade have 12 over 12 panes, are adorned by exterior panelled shutters, and have flat gauged stone arches over them. The foreshortened second story windows have six panes over nine. Stone steps lead up to a small stone stoop before the entranceway, which is set in the left bay. The entranceway is sheltered by a small domed hood over the door, which is comprised of a divided Dutch door.

Inside, the side hall extends entirely through the main house to a door in the rear and this passage also contains the stairway leading to the second floor. ~~_____~~

~~_____~~. A door on the left of the hall leads to the kitchen in the north service wing and two doors on the right lead into the two rooms on the first floor--the living or reception room in front and the dining room or Washington's Office in the back.

The same plan is repeated on the second floor of the main house, where there are two bedrooms on the south side and a guest bedroom at the west end of the hall. The rooms have fine Georgian paneling of advanced design, wide fireplaces, and wrought iron hardware.

About 90% of the house is original. Carefully restored and furnished with Washington mementos, Washington's Headquarters is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

December 1777--June 1778

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

Built in 1758 and owned by Isaac Potts, this farmhouse was the headquarters of General George Washington at Valley Forge from Christmas Eve 1777 to June 18, 1778. Here his wife Martha joined him on February 10 and remained until June 8, 1778--just prior to the Continental Army's evacuation of Valley Forge on June 19. The structure is also an excellent architectural example of a small colonial farmhouse with a plain Early Georgian exterior and elaborate Late Georgian interiors.

The house, built by Isaac Potts, a Quaker, in 1758, is 90% original. Carefully restored and forming a part of the Valley Forge State Park, Washington's Headquarters is open to visitors.

Note.

Valley Forge State Park is a National Historic Landmark, but the headquarters house has never been considered individually as a possible site of national significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State (American Guide Series)
(New York, 1940), 409.

Philip B. Wallace and M. Luther Miller, Colonial Houses, Philadelphia-
Pre-Revolutionary Period (New York 1931), 212-218.

Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes-North
(New York, 1956), 183.

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		40	06	05
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		75	27	43
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2255 acres in State Park

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

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 3/2/72

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

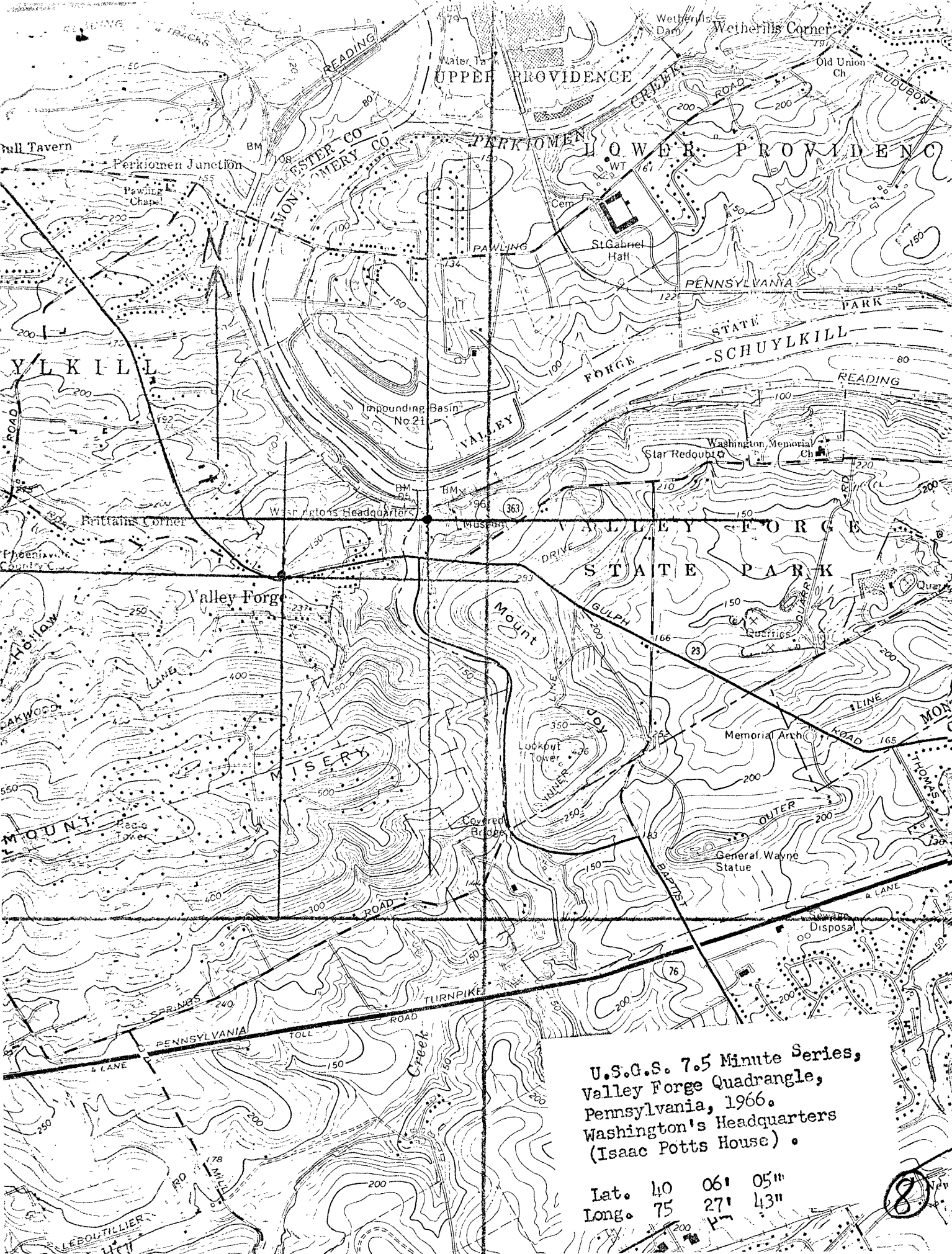
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series,
 Valley Forge Quadrangle,
 Pennsylvania, 1966.
 Washington's Headquarters
 (Isaac Potts House) .

Lat. 40° 06' 05"
 Long. 75° 27' 43"

