

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Woodville

and/or common Neville House

2. Location

street & number Route 50 (Washington Pike) not for publication

city, town Heidelberg vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Allegheny code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: under restoration

4. Owner of Property

name Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

street & number 1 Landmarks Square

city, town Pittsburgh vicinity of state Pennsylvania 15212

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegheny County Courthouse

street & number 414 Grant Street

city, town Pittsburgh state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1967  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

city, town Pittsburgh state Pennsylvania

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1785</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Neville house is basically a Virginian colonial style built in western Pennsylvania. This is understandable, because its builder was John Neville, a Virginian. It is a frame, one and a half story house, with later additions. The veranda with trellis post and beam panels stretches across the front, one side and the rear of the house. The roof has a long slope, covering the veranda and extending over a rear addition, evident by an earlier faced cornice on the gable end. There are two gable end brick chimneys and four roof dormer windows. The front roof dormers have been altered in a most curious combination of styles. A lancet arch window with intersecting tracery mullions has been installed; and the dormer cornice is a Spanish arch form.

As a later date colonial house, it exhibits a growing refinement in planning and layout. The house is bisected by an entrance hall that contains the stairs; on one side of it is a large living room with two small bedrooms at the back. On the other side are two irregularly shaped rooms, which indicate later room additions. The exterior clapboards do not match and there is a vertical wood strip to support this supposition. The interior contains some good late eighteenth-century woodwork.

A highway is steadily encroaching on the land in front of the house, but the house must be preserved as one of the few remaining eighteenth-century houses in Allegheny County. Its connection with an important family and its uncommon architectural style to the region further support its need for preservation.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1785 **Builder/Architect** John Neville

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Neville House is a Southern (Virginian) colonial house style transplanted in western Pennsylvania. It was built by Virginian John Neville in 1785. A few years later General John Neville built another house for himself nearby, called Bower Hill. This earlier house then came into the possession of his son, Colonel Presley Neville. Bower Hill was burned during the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794. The Neville House is in excellent condition and historically significant because of its builder, John Neville, and is an excellent example of a Virginian architectural style in western Pennsylvania.

General Neville came to the region from Virginia in the early 1770s. On May 16, 1775, he was appointed by the inhabitants of "that part of Augusta that lies on the west side of Laurel Hill at Pittsburgh" a member of a committee to select the delegates for the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. On August 7 he was directed by Virginia "to march with his company of one hundred men and take possession of Fort Pitt and that the said company be in the pay of this Colony from the time of their marching." Neville remained in command of Fort Pitt until General Edward Hand arrived here, June 1, 1777. Neville served throughout the Revolution; was at the battles of Trenton, Germantown, Princeton, and Monmouth, and was awarded the commission of brigadier general, September 30, 1783.

Probably, Bower Hill was built after he retired from military service. Bower Hill (in Bower Hill) was the first residence of General John Neville in western Pennsylvania. It was built in the manner of Virginia houses of the time, with wide walls and broad verandas on two sides. Adjoining it was a large, squared-log kitchen with a shingle roof and a stone chimney.

From 1783 to 1792 Neville was in Pennsylvania service. He was a member of the Supreme Executive Council (1783), a member of the Board of Property (1785-92), and a representative at the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention (1787).

When the Federal Government enacted new excise laws, new districts for the collection of these taxes were formed. Bedford, Westmoreland, Washington, and Allegheny Counties were one district, and General John Neville was named revenue inspector.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Stotz, Charles M. Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania. New York: Helburn, 1936, pp. 7, 43, 45-46, 57-59, 145, 167.

Van Trump, James D., and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1967, p. 169.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One acre

Quadrangle name Pittsburgh West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

17	576710	4470100
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot on which the Neville House stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James D. Van Trump, Research Director (retyped with minor revisions by National Park Service, January 1983)

organization Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation date March 1973

street & number telephone

city or town state

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

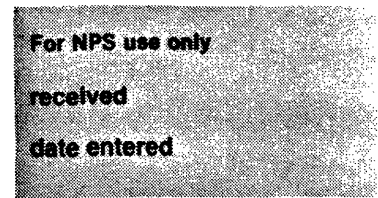
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

Title National Register of Historic Places

Date 1974

Depository for Survey records National Register of Historic Places,  
440 G Street, N.W.

City, Town Washington State DC

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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By 1794 the resistance to this excise tax by the Anti-Federalists in western Pennsylvania climaxed. Members of the Democratic Society were incited to rioting by their leaders, and on July 16, 1794, about 160 armed men attacked Neville's home. He and his servants resisted this attack. The group which attacked next evening was well organized, about 500 strong. Although soldiers had been sent from Fort Fayette to protect Neville, they were unsuccessful in quelling the riot. As a consequence the mansion (Bower Hill) and other buildings on the plantation were burned.

