

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Delaware
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Governor Printz Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Printzhof

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Taylor Avenue & Second Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Essington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Penna. #7

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Delaware CODE: 45

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Historical and Museum  
Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Museum Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harrisburg

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE:  
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Delaware County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Media

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE:  
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
National Historic Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1961  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

When Governor Printz began the construction of Fort New Gothenburg on Tinicum Island in 1643, the island was separated from the western bank of the Delaware by only a small stream. Today the stream is gone, and the island is part of the mainland. The log fort was built on a high point of the island, closely facing the river. On the shoreward side of the fort was the storehouse, also built of logs, and also fortified. Begun after the fort was the construction of the Printzhof; it was built of hewn logs, probably two stories high, and so arranged that it could be defended in case of attack. It contained ovens, two or more fireplaces with chimneys, made out of imported Swedish brick. The interior was constructed with Swedish lumber, and the windows had glass panes. The construction materials and the furnishings made the Printzhof one of the most elaborate structures in the New World. Clustered around the fort were the simple wooden houses of the settlers, and a log chapel. There were barns and other farming structures as well. Following the 1645 fire and subsequent explosion of the powder magazine, only a single barn remained. In 1646, the fort was rebuilt, as was a new church with a belfry, a free-standing structure alongside the church in the Swedish style. The Printzhof was rebuilt in an enlarged and more elaborate manner, but on the same general plan. Today the stone foundations of the Printzhof, uncovered by archeological excavation in 1937, are the only visible remains of the settlement. The ruins are contained in the seven acre Governor Printz Park.

Aside from the uncovered foundations of the Printzhof, the park contains a statue of Johan Printz, and in the northwest corner, a maintenance shed. Bounded on the west by a hedgerow and fence, on the north and east by Second Street and Taylor Avenue respectively, and on the south by the Delaware River bank, the park, with its various trees and shrubs, is used primarily for recreation purposes. Across Second Street are private homes, and on the east and west are a restaurant and other commercial properties.

**BOUNDARIES**

Beginning at the SW intersection of Taylor Avenue and Second Street, proceed south along the fence marking the park boundary 913', thence west along the bank of the Delaware approximately 380', thence N along the western fence line 807', thence east at Second Street approximately 303' to the point of origin.

The contained property constitutes the extent of the open and relatively untouched land suitable for the archeological work necessary in developing the site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1643-54**

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

On Tinicum Island, now Essington, Pennsylvania, stood the capital of New Sweden from 1643-54, the first permanent European settlement in what was to become the colony and, later, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The settlement here was due largely to the energies of Governor Johan Printz, who constructed a log fort, "New Gothenburg", and within it his house, the "Printzhof", in addition to a log chapel, a storehouse, and a brewery. The site of the Printzhof is contained today in the seven acre Governor Printz Park. Archeological excavations have uncovered the stone foundations of the Printzhof, which are the only visible remains of the site.

HISTORY

The infant colony of New Sweden on the Christina River at the site of modern Wilmington, Delaware, was virtually ignored by the homeland until the arrival in 1643 of Governor Printz, a large and imposing man who had been instructed to make New Sweden show a profit. He ordered the clearing of more land for agriculture, intensified the cultivation of tobacco, stepped up the beaver trade, and asserted the Swedish claim to a large trading area. Printz expanded the area of settlement by establishing Fort New Gothenburg and the Printzhof on Tinicum Island, further up the Delaware. A great fire swept the settlement in the winter of 1645, and despite the great hardship, Printz set about at once to rebuild the capital. Lumber shipped from Sweden was used in the interior of the reconstructed Printzhof, and two or more fireplaces with chimneys were constructed of brick. In addition, glass windows, drapes, and a library all contributed to make the Printzhof a very luxurious residence. The increased trading by the Swedes soon sparked the Dutch of New Netherland into a hostile rivalry which manifested itself in Peter Stuyvesant's construction of Fort Casimir at what is now New Castle. After having quelled one mutiny, Printz despaired of receiving adequate support and sufficient settlers from home. He gave up his command in October, 1653, and returned to Sweden. His successor, Johan Rising, rashly seized Fort Casimir in the following year. His action was answered by Stuyvesant's capture of the entire Swedish colony a year later. The inhabitants, however, were allowed to continue their accustomed way of life.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Amandus Johnson, Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1644 2vols. (New York, 1911, reprinted 1970).  
 Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration of New Jersey, The Swedes and Finns in New Jersey (Bayonne, N.J., 1938).

**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	° ' "	° ' "		UTM 18.474070.4412170	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **7 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:  
**Richard E. Greenwood, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, Landmark Review Project**      DATE: **8/14/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **11**

**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.

Landmark Designated: **Nov. 5, 1961**

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Boundary Certified: **Cornelius June 7, 1974 - 24-75**

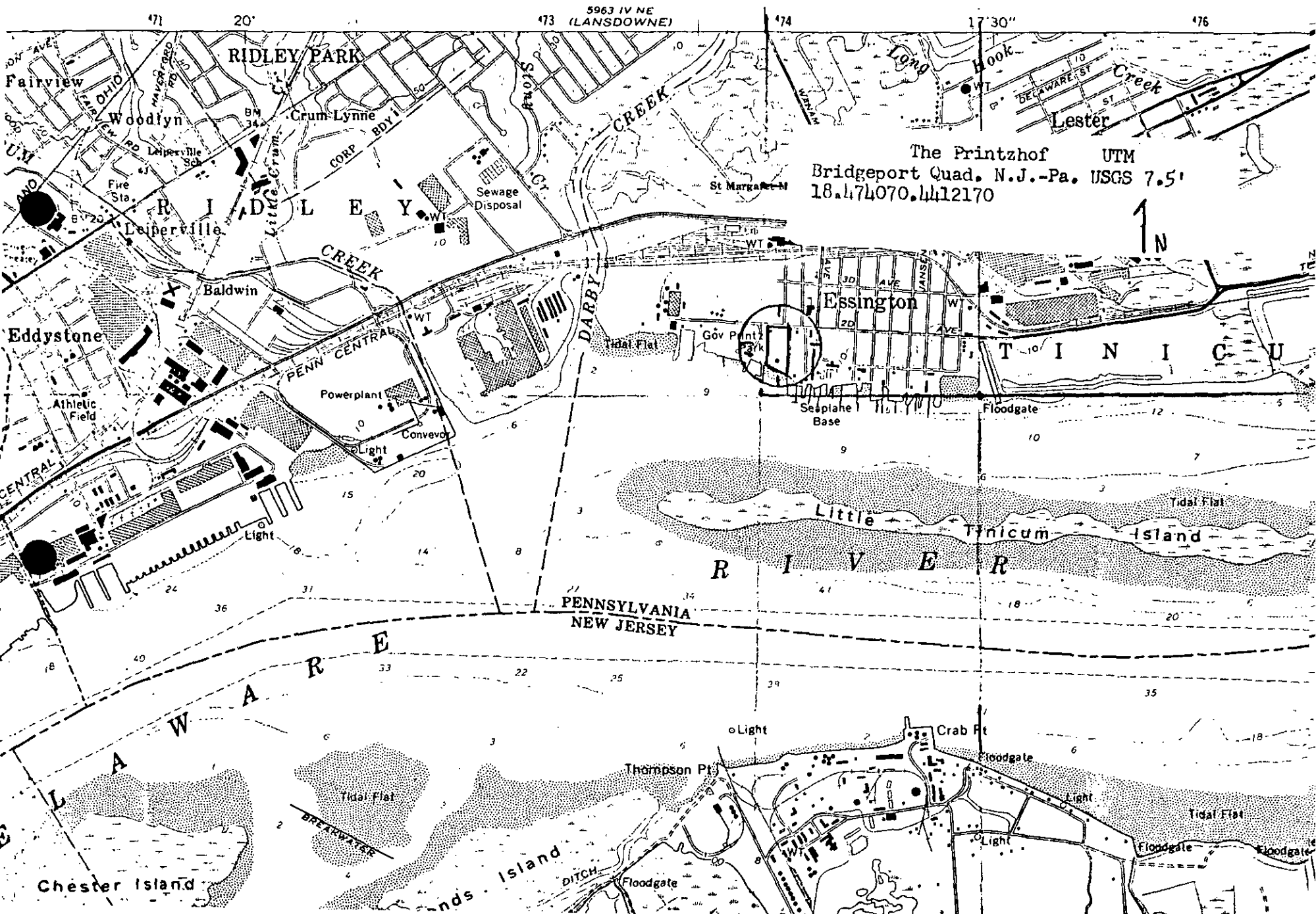
Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Boundary Affirmed: **9/25/75**

Keeper of The National Register      Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5963 IV NE (LANSDOWNE)

The Printzhof UTM  
 Bridgeport Quad. N.J.-Pa. USGS 7.5'  
 18.474070.4412170



PENNSYLVANIA  
 NEW JERSEY

BREAKWATER

DITCH

R I V E R

LITTLE TINICUM ISLAND

Chester Island

RIDLEY PARK

Fairview  
 Woodlyn

Eddystone

Athletic Field

PENN CENTRAL

Powerplant  
 Conveyer

Sewage Disposal

Essington

Gov. Point

Seaplane Base

Floodgate

Tidal Flat

Thompson Pt.

Crab Pt.

Floodgate

Light

Light

Floodgate

Floodgate

Island