Washington's Headquarters
Washington's Headquarters (Isaac Potts House)

Valley Creek Road, near junction of State Routes 252 and 23
Valley Forge State Park, Valley Forge
Pennsylvania

District
Building
XX Public
Private
Both
Public Acquisition:
In Process
Being Considered
XX Occupied
Unoccupied
Preservation work in progress
Yes:
Restricted
Unrestricted
No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Agricultural
Government
Park
Transportation
Comments
Commercial
Industrial
Private Residence
Other (Specify)
Educational
Military
Religious

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

Courthouse
Valley Forge 19481
Pennsylvania

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Historic American Buildings Survey (7 photos)
DATE OF SURVEY: 1937

Federal
State
County
Local

ENTRY NUMBER DATE
COUNTY: Montgomery
STATE: Pennsylvania
CODE: Montgomery
ENTRY NUMBER DATE
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STATE: Pennsylvania
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ENTRY NUMBER DATE
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.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- □ Pre-Columbian
- □ 16th Century  XX 18th Century
- □ 15th Century  □ 17th Century  □ 19th Century  □ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) December 1777--June 1778

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [X] Aboriginal
- [X] Prehistoric
- [X] Historic
- [X] Agriculture
- [X] Architecture
- [X] Art
- [X] Commerce
- [X] Communications
- [X] Conservation
- [X] Education
- [X] Engineering
- [X] Industry
- [X] Invention
- [X] Landscape
- [X] Architecture
- [X] Literature
- [X] Military
- [X] Music
- [X] Political
- [X] Religion/Philosophy
- □ Science
- [X] Sculpture
- □ Social/Humanitarian
- □ Transportation
- □ Urban Planning
- □ Other (Specify)

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.


**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2255 acres in State Park

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service 3/2/72

801 - 19th Street, N.W.

Washington

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 [ ]

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 _____________________________

GP 0 9 /0 1 - 0 4 7
Washington's Headquarters
Montgomery County, PA