

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 7 1979

DATE ENTERED *approved 2/27/80*SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Morristown National Historical Park

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New JerseyVICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, North Atlantic Region

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston, Mass.

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Morris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Western Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Morristown National Historical Park is situated in north central New Jersey, and is a part of the New York City urban region. Most of the Park area is in Morris County, with a small portion in Somerset County. Situated in a rural-like setting that is undergoing tremendous socio-economic change, this is a region of varied topography, with rolling hills, stream valleys, swamps and semi-mountains, much of it covered with hardwood. Eight percent of the county, or about 40 square miles, is still farmed, and half the country is open land, neither farmed nor developed in any way. However, less than one percent of its employment is derived from farming and it is on the whole an urban county. Recent years have seen the introduction into Morris County of a significant number of light industries centered around chemicals, drugs, and engineering corporations. Thus, nearly half of the people are employed in manufacturing and the fastest growing types of jobs are office work and services. There has been a concurrent increase in population resulting in new highways, apartments, housing developments, shopping centers, and schools on what were once farm and pasture lands. Much of this new construction adjoins Park lands. The historic scene, therefore, has changed radically since the time when General Washington's ragged army made Morristown its winter headquarters. In those years the Morristown community consisted of about 250 inhabitants, most of whom were farmers, and about 70 widely scattered homes.

Morristown NHP covers 1,673.63 acres and is made up of four separate units (See Land Classification and Boundary Maps). The Washington's Headquarters and Fort Nonsense Units are located in Morristown. About eight miles to the south are the Jockey Hollow and New Jersey Brigade Units.

The Headquarters Unit consists of 10.14 acres and includes the Ford Mansion and the park museum. Fort Nonsense covers 34.59 acres and is located in the northern end of Mt. Kemble overlooking Morristown and the surrounding countryside. Jockey Hollow, the largest tract of land, contains 1,307.49 acres and includes the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center, the Guerin House (used as employee residence), the Wick House, maintenance areas, and scattered Continental Army brigade sites. This unit is, for the most part, a natural woodland area with an abundance of wildlife. New Jersey Brigade Unit consists of 320.55 acres, and includes the Cross Estate and Jarvis properties acquired in 1975 and 1976. The Cross Mansion is used for administrative offices and two other buildings as employees' quarters. The four park units are located on an axis running from northeast to southwest.

The Park's terrain has remained largely the same as it was during the historical period, consisting of rolling hills, stream valleys, and swamps, much of which is covered with hardwoods such as oak, maples, dogwoods, black walnut and locust. When the soldiers constructed their huts, they had chestnut timber as well.

The four park units are widely separated, requiring motorized vehicles to get from one unit to the next. The Ford Mansion is located about one mile east of the Morristown Green, the center of town; Jockey Hollow is located about 3½ miles southwest of the Green. Fort Nonsense stands between the Headquarters and Jockey Hollow accessible to visitors from several local conjectured streets. The New Jersey Brigade Campsite lies a few miles south of Jockey Hollow.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1744-1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morristown National Historical Park is significant in that it commemorates a vital phase of our Revolutionary War, for during two critical winters, 1777 and 1779-80, the rolling countryside in and around Morristown, New Jersey, sheltered the main encampments of the American Continental Army and served as the headquarters of its courageous and resourceful Commander-in-Chief, George Washington. Patriot troops were also quartered in this vicinity on many other occasions. Here Washington reorganized his weary and depleted forces almost within the sight of strong British lines at New York. Here came Lafayette with welcome news of the second French expedition sent to aid the Americans. And here was developed, in the face of bitter cold, hunger, hardship, and disease, the Nation's will to independence and freedom. Thus, for a time, this small New Jersey village became the military capital of the United States.

The geography of the Morristown area had a profound influence on the selection of this site for a winter encampment. Located in the Watchung Mountains high above the Hudson River, Morristown provided an excellent observation post from which Washington could observe every move which the British made. The heavily wooded area of Morristown not only shielded the Continental Army from the enemy, but it also contained the necessary hardwood trees to build shelters and provide fuel.

The historical resources within Morristown National Historical Park include the Ford Mansion (ca. 1774), the Wick House (ca. 1750) and the remains of the winter encampment sites in the Jockey Hollow area (1779-80); 1781; 1781-82) and in the New Jersey Brigade site (1779-80) south of it.

In January, 1777, the Delaware Light Infantry was quartered in the Ford Mansion, built between 1772 and 1774 by Colonel Jacob Ford Jr., a prominent iron and gunpowder manufacturer who was also a leader of the Morris County Militia. When Washington returned to Morristown late in 1779, Ford's widow offered her home to the General and his official family. It remained his headquarters from December 1, 1789 until June 23, 1780, while his men were camped about five miles south in the Jockey Hollow area. To the Ford Mansion came the American military leaders as well as the Marquis de Lafayette, the Chevalier de la Luzerrue and Don Juan Miralles. Washington used the majority of the rooms not only for the headquarters of the American Army but also for social and living purposes. Remaining in the house is Ford family furniture said to have been there during the revolution.

Situated about 100 yards east of the Ford Mansion during the 1779-80 winter was the hut encampment of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, commonly called the "Lifeguard."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartenstein, Fred. "The New Jersey Brigade Encampment Near Morristown, Winter of 1779-80" Mendan, New Jersey, Oct. 1967.
Holland, Morris R. "Historic Structures Report, Part I Ford Mansion" MORR 1959
Luzader, John F. "New Jersey Brigade Encampment site" NPS, 1968
Perry, Sherman W. "Historic Structures Report Part III, Ford Mansion" Morristown, 1965.
Svejda, George J. "Quartering, Disciplining and Supplying the Army at Morristown 1779-80" NPS 1970

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Torres-Reyes, Ricardo, Historic Structure Report, The Wick House
Archeological Reports, NPS, various authors on work done at some of the lines and Fort Nonsense during the 1930's - 1970's

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,673.63

UTM REFERENCES

Jockey Hollow Area

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 18	5380200	4511780
C 18	5412000	4513720

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B 18	5396400	4511450
D 18	5398600	4511880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Ricardo Torres-Reyes

ORGANIZATION

NARO

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

Oct. 5, 1978

TELEPHONE

223-3778

STATE

Mass.

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State ☐ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Larry W. [Signature] Acting Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

DATE

4/27/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

William O'Connell

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/27/80

DATE

2/25/80

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The significant cultural resources of the Park will be discussed according to the four geographical units.

Washington Headquarters Unit:

1. The Ford Mansion (no. HS1)

The Ford Mansion was erected between 1772 and 1774 by Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. At the time of its construction, it was located on a 200-acre tract and was situated about half a mile from the center of Morristown which then contained 250 people. During the winter of 1779-1780, General George Washington, accompanied by Mrs. Washington, occupied the home as his official headquarters while his troops were bivouacked in Jockey Hollow. In 1872, the house was sold by Ford heirs to the Washington Association of New Jersey which formed to operate it as a historic museum until the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park in 1933.

Today the Ford Mansion and the grounds surrounding it cover a site in a residential area of Morristown bounded on three sides by city streets. Interstate 287, a limited access highway, runs immediately west of the Ford tract passing under the east and west bound lanes of Morris Avenue. Private residences, all built at least 37 years ago, are located across city streets from the Ford tract. An elementary school is situated just west of the interstate. The unit is landscaped with turf separated by hedges and shaded by specimen deciduous and evergreen trees. This landscaping was done ca. 1900 and during the 1930's.

Archeological investigations in the vicinity of the mansion, done between 1936 and 1939, discovered a stone fence that had extended southwesterly from that corner of the mansion to Morris Avenue, the 10' x 25' foundation of an outbuilding behind the mansion, a 10' x 14' foundation of a shed or leanto adjacent to the kitchen wing, and 2 cisterns.

The house was restored in 1938-1941 by the National Park Service after extensive architectural, archeological, and historical research were conducted.

The Ford Mansion is a large two-story detached house, built in the late Georgian style. The structure is wood frame resting on stone foundation walls. It consists of a large rectangular main section with central hall and four rooms on each of the floors, and a rectangular, two story (five bays on the front) kitchen wing on the east side. There is also a large unfinished attic and a basement. The wood shingle roof is a broad, hipped gambrel, and there are two chimneys in the main section and one in the kitchen wing.

The most important part of the architectural design of the house is its symmetrical, five-bay front facade. The focus of this facade is a handsomely proportioned central doorway with side lights and a fanlight of carved wood in the Palladian motif. This is repeated in the Palladian window above. The wide clapboards of the walls are flush boarded horizontally on the front facade to simulate a surface of dressed stone.

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The cornice is elaborate, accented by pronounced dentilation. The sides (two-bay) of the house are covered with clapboards. Windows in the main section are 12/12 double-hung sash with the exception of the Palladian style doorway and window in the center bay on the first and second stories respectively. Windows in the kitchen wing are 6/6. A small door, reached by three steps, is in the second bay (close to the main section) and gives access to the first floor of the kitchen wing.

There are exterior shutters on the lower windows with the exception of the Palladian-style features in the central bays.

A study conducted while rehabilitation work was carried out on the Ford Mansion in the early 1960's cast some doubt on earlier phases of exterior restoration (1938-41). The diaries of Gabriel Ford (1796-1860's) refer, for instance, to the existence of dormer windows in parts of the original structure. These were removed in 1938 by the National Park Service. The diaries also refer to the existence of a wooden stoop and railing in the original structure whereas the structure then was approached by a flight of five brownstone steps. As far as can be determined from the Ford diaries, no major changes were made in the house while it remained a residence of the Fords. When the Washington Association of New Jersey acquired the property, some changes were made in the rooms, but details are very general in their reports.

The Ford Mansion is furnished with a number of fine Ford family pieces that are said to have been in the house when General Washington used it as his headquarters. Other pieces are of the period of 1780 or earlier.

Jockey Hollow Unit

Jockey Hollow, the encampment area of the Continental Army, is mostly forested with mixed hardwoods. Over a period of three years, over 16,000 men were cantoned here. The remains--mainly stone foundations--of many of their huts can still be seen today. The headwaters of Primrose Brook form in the area and were tapped in 1890 to augment Morristown's water supply. The brook is a tributary of the Passaic River. Elevations in Jockey Hollow vary from 310 feet, where the park boundary intersects the brook, to 756 feet on top of Sugar Loaf Hill. Slopes are gentle to moderately steep. The hill-sides are generally dry, although seeps and parts of stream valleys are swampy, especially in winter.

General Washington selected the Morristown area to winter his troops in 1779-80 because of its strategic location with respect to the British Army based in New York City. Moreover, the New Jersey populace was generally friendly to the patriot cause, fertile farmlands could supply foodstuffs for the troops, and housing for the officers was available in private homes. Washington assigned to his quartermaster-general, Nathaniel Green, the responsibility of locating each brigade encampment. Jockey Hollow was a favorable site because its forests could supply logs for the soldiers' huts, firewood for heating and cooking, and stones for fireplaces. The hillsides were dry, and water

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was plentiful. This land had been portions of the plantation owned by loyalist Peter Kemble and the farms owned by Henry Wick and Joshua Guerin.

Washington ordered the various brigades to establish camp in a strictly organized manner. Proper alignment was especially stressed in the construction of huts. Uniformity in size was apparently another guiding principle. Soldiers' huts were required to be about 14' x 15' or 16' and usually had one fireplace and one door. Windows were either nonexistent or were cut out of the log walls. The general encampment plan seems to have called for a regiment (288 men) to have 24 huts, 12 men to a hut, built in three rows of eight huts each. Some variation was permitted to meet the needs of each separate unit. Officers' huts were generally larger in size than those of their men. They had two fireplaces, two chimneys, and in addition to a door, at least two windows. Two to four officers were accommodated.

Before troops moved onto the ground to be occupied, quartermasters who were familiar with an engineer study of the proposed encampment site marked out the lines on which huts were to be erected. At several places along the lines of the two Connecticut brigade areas in Morristown, there are large stones lying on the ground between hut sites that suggest by their alignment that they may have been placed to establish a straight line for huts. Visible remains of hut sites show that leveling was accomplished both by digging deeply into the hillside and by placing stones on the lower side. So little disturbance has occurred in Jockey Hollow since the encampment that many of the "vertical walls" dug into the hillside can be seen today and numerous hut sites have been located by archeological reconnaissance and confirmed by excavation.

Huts built by men in military service were military adaptations of contemporary frontier log houses, reflecting regional differences in construction. The huts consisted basically of logs notched at each end to interlock securely with the log below and above, with little or no overlap at the corners. The ends of the logs were vertically trimmed with an ax. While the side walls (ca. 7 feet high) were being put in place, provision was made for a doorway and for the fireplace. The fireplace was often stone as high as the eaves, above which the chimney was cribbed a foot or so above the roof line using sticks as a framework for a clay flue liner. Fireplaces and chimneys of log cribbing with no stone lining were also built. Remaining evidence shows a great variation in width and depth of fireplaces. Also, there is a complete lack of uniformity in chimney location from hut to hut. The hut doors swung on wooden or leather strap hinges. No iron hinges or fragments of such hinges were found on any hut sites. Window glass was found at Morristown in very small quantity and only on the sites of officers' huts.

In addition to the enlisted men's and officers' huts, the brigade encampment included a number of important administrative structures as well as support and service buildings such as guard houses, a bake house, a forge, etc.

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Wick House (Ho. HS2)

Located in the Jockey Hollow area on the north side of Tempe Wick Road, about 325' west of its intersection with Jockey Hollow Road, the Wick House was the headquarters of Major General Arthur St. Clair in 1779-80. Two brigades of the Pennsylvania line encamped on portions of the Wick farm lands during that winter.

The Wick House was built ca. 1750 by Henry Wick (1707-1780), perhaps together with his father-in-law, Nathan Cooper. The site chosen was on the crown of a hill in a mountainous section surrounded by a heavy timbered area, where oak and walnut were then very common. The area remains heavily wooded. Beside the outbuildings generally associated with homesteads of the period, there were orchards. On a map of 1795 there is an orchard adjacent to the southeast of the house, where it is located at the present time; further to the northeast there was another old orchard, also shown on the 1795 map, but no longer in existence.

The Wick House is an unusual occurrence of the Cape Cod house type at a great distance from the region in which it is usually found. This may perhaps be explained by the fact that Wick was born on that part of Long Island which was settled by emigrants from New England. It is a rectangular frame structure organized around a central chimney and facing south. An 1859 Lossing engraving of the Wick House shows the west and south elevations of a story-and-a-half cottage with sidings and a ridged roof. In the engraving, the south elevation has four windows with shutters and a center door; just below the right-hand window, on the southeast corner, is the entrance door to the bulkhead of the cellar. On the west elevation there are two windows with shutters on the first floor, another on the second floor and a smaller one in the apex of the gable.

The Wick House was built around a large stone chimney, about 8' x 12', which vented fireplaces in the east, or family, parlor to the right of the front door; in the west parlor to the left of the front door; and in the large kitchen at the back of the house. Panel work filled the space above the mantletrees.

The front door of the Wick House, originally a dutch door hanging on strap hinges, opened into a hall 4' x 8', its width being just the same as that of the chimney. The hall gave access to the east and west parlors behind which, in addition to the kitchen, there was a west chamber and, on the east, a chamber with a pantry behind it. The attic is reached by a stairway in the front hall.

The Wick House has largely been restored (1934-35) but the original oak frame is remarkably complete. Also original are part of the floors and the walls of the kitchen, the kitchen chambers and the pantry. The physical examination of the whole house fabric disclosed that the Wick House, like most old structures, had undergone a considerable number of alterations in the course of more than two centuries of habitation. These changes involved, according to the restoration architects, the elimination of the

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fireplaces in the two front rooms, rebuilding the chimney, moving the attic stairs, changing partitions, plastering of interior walls, adding windows, relocating doors and replacing siding. A close examination of the framing of the front, or south, elevation showed that the arrangement of windows and type of wall had been changed from the original. Hence, in the restored building there is only one window centered to the east and west of the center door. The door had not been changed in position but had been heightened. The study of the framing also clearly revealed the original fenestration of the east and west side elevations and of the back, or north, elevations. The windows were restored accordingly. The kitchen door was unchanged in location or size although neither the door nor frame were original.

The exterior siding of the Wick House was restored with shingles on the front and clapboards on the other three elevations. This restoration was based on the fact that when the modern weatherboards were removed from the frame of the house, it was observed that all the studs, posts and braces across the front were notched out to receive battens, indicating that the wall had originally been shingled. There were no indications that there were ever any shingles on the other elevations. A piece of old weatherboard found in the house served as a model for the restoration of the remaining walls. The physical evidence also supported the reshingling of the roof.

On the interior of the Wick House, all ceilings were found to have been open with rough beams. It being improbable that there were plastered walls in conjunction with these ceilings, it was decided to use in all the house the wall treatment of the rear rooms, sheathing the outside walls horizontally and raising the partitions of vertical boards. Where interior wood sheathing was missing, it was replaced with new ones that matched the details of existing horizontal sheathing in the house.

The doors existing in the Wick House when the restoration was undertaken were sheathed and battened. Believing that they probably replaced originals of the same type rather than paneled doors, the restoration architects used them throughout the house.

New Jersey Brigade Encampment Site

This site is about one and a half miles south of the Jockey Hollow Encampment area of the Morristown National Historical Park. Jockey Hollow contained encampments of the entire Continental Army under Washington's direct command in the winter of 1779-80, except for the New Jersey brigade of about 1,300 men. It was bivouacked about 1.75 miles southwest of the Wick House, overlooking Hardscrabble Road and Indian Grave Brook in Somerset County. Most of the encampment appears to be well preserved, probably because the area had not been farmed but had reverted to woodland after the Revolutionary War.

The Audubon Society of New Jersey donated the triangular-shaped tract of 25.45 acres containing the site of the encampment to the National Park Service in 1969. The east

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side of the tract is bordered by the Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary owned by the Society and 900 feet in contiguous to the W. Redmond Cross estate on the north. Other adjoining properties are mostly wooded, privately owned, and in relatively large tracts.

Archeologists conducted documentary and field research in 1967 that established the authenticity of the site. This was confirmed in April and May 1968 by further onsite archeological investigation under the direction of Robert Ditchburn, Curator of Military History, Pennsylvania State University, while under contract to the Audubon Society.

Ditchburn found remains both east and west of a road trace that may have been the old camp road. Ten officers' huts were located east of the road, and enlisted men's huts were located in groups of four, west of the road; one of each of these types of huts was excavated. All hut sites lie parallel to the road and to the length of the hillside. Those used by the enlisted men are precisely spaced both as to distance between huts and orientation with no regard as to whether a hut's location fell in a suitable building area or not. The slope of the hillside here is quite steep and most of the huts were well dug in on the uphill side. The officers' huts were fairly well aligned, but not precisely spaced or oriented.

The huts were of log construction. This is evidenced by slight signs of log mould along wall lines and the presence of a large quantity of clay and small stones used in chinking. It would also seem that the roofs were of boards, and weight stones and poles were used as a means of securing the boards. These stones were found on the hut floors where they had fallen when the roof collapsed.

The northern and eastern edges of the encampment seem to be almost intact, but just how much of the southeastern section has been ~~disturbed~~ by cultivation remains unclear.

Fort Nonsense

Located in Morristown and in Morris Township, the 34.59-acre Fort Nonsense unit lies about an air mile west of headquarters. The major feature of the site is a hill, wooded mostly in oak and maple, that rises about 320 feet above the town. There is no sound historical basis for the present Fort area on top of the northern end of Mt. Kemble. Recent library research and onsite archeological explorations have failed to substantiate the tradition that Fort Nonsense contained either a redoubt or a beacon during the Revolutionary War, or was ever fortified. Washington did express concern over fortifications somewhere near Morristown. He referred to an upper redoubt, or works, or the completion of fortifications on an unknown hill close to the town for the purpose of guarding the military stores. It can be reasonably assumed that the place referred to by Washington was the present Fort Nonsense area, although the evidence has not supported this. It was the only point which had a commanding view of Morristown. However, recent research indicates that this assumption must be questioned.

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Historic roads are few in the Morristown National Historical Park. Most that remain have been widened and paved so that they have lost their original identity but significant sections of Old Army Road running through Jockey Hollow and the Jarvis tract are virtually unchanged since Revolutionary days. The nonhistoric roads, on the other hand, have increased over the years because of the increasing influx of visitors and automobiles.

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In addition to its significance by association with American military and political history, the Ford Mansion is a fine example of the late Georgian style of architecture.

The Wick House, like the Ford Mansion, is significant for its historic association with the American Revolution. When, in the winter of 1779-1780, Morristown became for the second time (the first being in 1777) the headquarters of the Continental Army, the main portion of the Army encamped in the Jockey Hollow area, about three miles southwest of Morristown. Many of the troops were billeted on the property of Henry Wick, whose homestead was probably typical of the fairly prosperous farmers of the day. Major General Arthur St. Clair, the Commander of the Pennsylvania Line, made the house his headquarters throughout the winter months. Washington came to the house a number of times when he visited his troops.

Archeological remains associated with the encampment units and the Wick and Ford house units have a significance derived from their association with the important historical events which occurred. In addition, these remains are likely to provide important information about the Revolutionary War Period. Social and economic differentiation in American society, regional and social variation in material culture; among other aspects of the period, can be investigated with these remains.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE two

Geographic Data

Ford Mansion - UTM references

A	18	544	900	45	16	170
	Zone	Easting			Northing	

New Jersey Brigade Encampment - UTM references

A	18	537	000	45	10	930
	Zone	Easting			Northing	
B	18	537	000	45	10	340
C	18	536	820	45	10	320
D	18	536	670	45	10	040

DEMVA COLONADO 185224

DSC MAR 73
337 20001

TO BASKINRIDGE

QUARTERS OF GEN WAYNE

LARZELER'S TAVERN

TO ELIZABETHTOWN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DENVER SERVICE CENTER 7200 W ALAMEDA DENVER COLORADO 80226	HISTORICAL BASE MAP MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK MOUNT KEMBLE AREA 1780 - 81 - 82 NERO MORRIS COUNTY NEW JERSEY REGION COUNTY STATE
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BASKINRIDGE ROAD

RECEIVED
MAY 7 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER

BAILEY

HOLLOW

ROAD

ROAD

GUERIN

SUGAR

LOAF

ROAD

0 800 1 600 2 400
SCALE IN FEET



ELIZABETHTOWN

MENDHAM

TO MENDHAM

TO NEW JERSEY BRIGADE SITE

NEW JERSEY BRIGADE
(WINTER '81-'82)

WICK HOUSE

MAGAZINE

ARTILLERY

(DEC '80-JAN '81)

CAMP GUARD NO. 3

CAMP GUARD NO. 4

THE CITADEL

CAMP GUARD NO. 1

PENNSYLVANIA LINE
(DEC 1780-JAN '81)
NEW JERSEY BRIGADE
(FEBR-JULY '81)

PENNSYLVANIA LINE
(DEC '80-JAN '81)
NEW JERSEY BRIGADE
(FEBR-JULY '81)

CAMP GUARD NO. 2

COMMISSARY HUTS

ROAD

ROAD

JOCKEY

HOLLOW

CAMP STREET

BASKINRIDGE ROAD

FORT NONSENSE

Located in Morristown and Morris Township, the 34.59-acre Fort Nonsense Unit lies about one air mile west of headquarters. The Unit is situated on a hill, wooded mostly in oak and maple, which rises about 320 feet above the town. The Continental Army constructed on this hill in 1777 an "upper redoubt" consisting of a ditch, earthwork parapet, and three bastions (gun positions). The redoubt held at least one field gun as well as an infantry detachment. Washington's general orders include instructions to build and garrison the redoubt.

The name "Fort Nonsense" was apparently ascribed to the site after the Revolutionary War in the mistaken belief that Washington ordered the hill fortified merely as "busy work" for the soldiers encamped near Morristown. Actually the redoubt was an excellent position to observe and repel an attack upon the encampment and military supplies in and around Morristown.

The earliest reference to "Fort Nonsense" dates to 1795. Mahlon Dickerson noted visits to Fort Nonsense in his diary for that year. Traces of the Fort Nonsense ditch were visible for many years. Benson Lossing reported his observations of the "prominent" remains of the earthworks in his Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution (1851). Emory McClintock (1894) and Andrew Sherman (1905) also noted the earthworks as they stood around the turn of the century, with the latter even publishing photographs of the low earthen walls.

The National Park Service acquired the Fort Nonsense site in 1933. Archeological investigations in 1936 and 1971 failed to locate fully the redoubt's remains. A more expansive archeological investigation conducted in 1989, coupled with additional documentary research, located the redoubt. The investigators also prepared maps of the redoubt's contours. Today the redoubt's lines are marked with Belgian block and tall growing grass. Wayside markers and a reproduction field gun have also been installed at the site.



1. Ford Mansion, Morristown National Historical
Park
2. Morristown, New Jersey
3. Bruce Stewart
4. 4/75
5. Morristown NHP
6. Front View

Morris Co. N.J.

MAY 7 1979

10/9

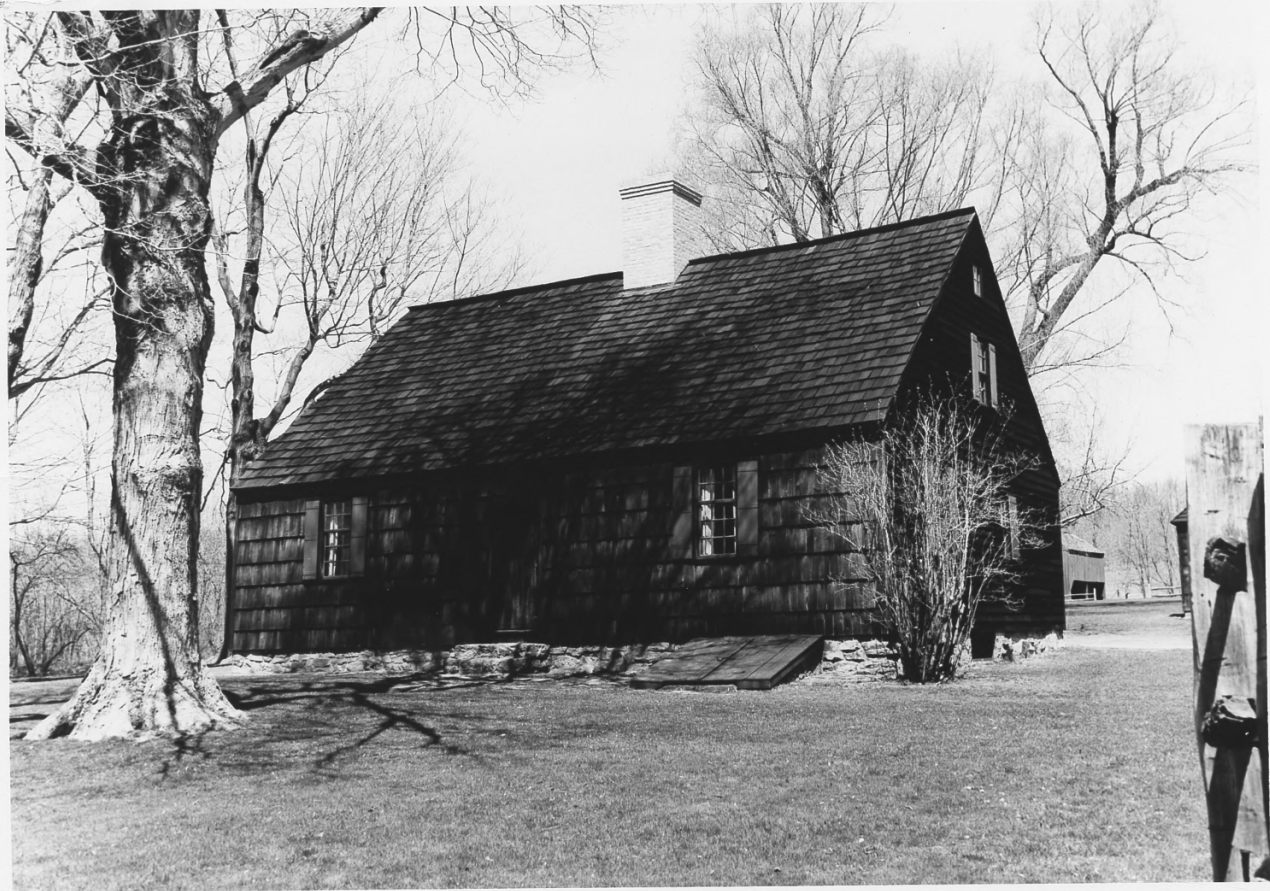


1. Jockey Hollow Area, Morristown National Historical
Park
2. Morristown, New Jersey
3. Bruce Stewart
4. 4/75
5. Morristown NHP
6. General View of the Jockey Hollow Area from Hand's
Brigade Encampment site looking toward the
Wick House

Morris Co. N.J.

MAY 7 1979

2nd 9



1. Wick House, Morristown National Historical Park
2. Morristown, New Jersey
3. Bruce Stewart
4. April 1975
5. Morristown NHP
6. Rear View

Gunnis Co.

MAY 7 1979

3 of 4



1. New Jersey Brigade Encampment Site. Morristown NHP
2. Four miles south of Morristown, New Jersey
3. Bruce Stewart *Morris Co*
4. April, 1975 *NJ*
5. Park
6. Fireplace remains of the New Jersey Brigade Encampment Site

4 of 9

MAY 7 1979



Photographer - Ted Sowers

Date - Dec. 1, 1970

Neg # - 70-4

Neg Location - Headquarters Museum

Description - hut site

New Jersey Brigade
before stabilization

Morristown National Hist Pk

Morristown, N.J. snaris Co.

MAY 7 1979

sch 9



Photographer - S. Kopczynski

Date - Feb. 7, 1979

Neg. # - 07987

Neg. Location - Headquarters Museum

Description: Site of Fort Nonsense

Morristown National Historical
Park

Morristown, N.J. snows W

MAY 7 1979

6-2-8



Photographer - Susan Kopczynski

Date - Feb. 7, 1979

Neg # - 07988

Neg. Location - Headquarters Museum

Description - Wick House, exterior view
South Front
Jockey Hollow

Morristown National Historical Plc

Morristown, N.J.

Summit Co. N.J.

MAY 7 1979

7229



Photographer - Susan Kopczynski

Date: Feb. 7, 1979

Neg. #: 07989

Neg. Location: Headquarters Museum

Description: Soldier Huts
Pennsylvania Line
Jockey Hollow

Morristown National Historical
Park

Morristown N.J. 07960

Warren Co. N.J.

MAY 7 1979

L. J. G.



C 550

Photographer - Susan Kopczynski

Date - Feb. 7, 1979

Neg. # - 07983

Neg Location - Headquarters Museum

Description - Ford Mansion
(Washington's Headquarters)

Morristown National Historical
Park

Morristown, N. J.

MAY 7 1979

949



NS 4-4

MORRISTOWN NAT'L HIST
PARK NJ

Morris
County



NJ 4-5