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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC GENERAL EDWARD HAND HOUSE: "ROCK FORD"

AND/OR COMMON

"Rock Ford"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

881 Rock Ford Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

16th

STATE

Pennsylvania

— VICINITY OF

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lancaster

CODE

071

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Richard H. Barr, Chairman
Rock Ford Foundation

STREET & NUMBER

1111 Wheatland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster, 17604

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1793-94, "Rock Ford" is a rectangular, two-story brick house with a gable roof and two interior chimneys. One-story porches extend around the south (rear), east, and west sides of the structure and the second floor level on the north (front, or river) elevation is marked by a brick belt course. Five-bays wide and four-bays deep, the center door in the north facade is flanked by pilasters and crowned by a fanlight and triangular pediment.

A center hall extends through the house and divides the four rooms on the first floor into pairs. A fine stairway is set against the west or right wall of the hall. To the left of the hall are the yellow parlor and behind this, the dining room; to the right of the hall are the blue parlor and in the rear, Dr. Hand's study. The two rear rooms have deep windows seats and all windows have interior folding shutters. The four bedrooms on the second floor are also grouped in pairs and, in addition, there is a fifth small room located at the north end of the center hall. There are four more small chambers in the attic and the large kitchen is situated in the north-west corner of the basement.

The house is largely original: all doors, windows, shutters, floors, stairs, wall panelling, and cupboards are originals. Much of the window glass is also original. The walls and woodwork have been painted in colors that are duplicate of those used in the residence at the time the Hands lived there. The one-story exterior porches around three sides of the house have been reconstructed. Much of the furniture of the house are original Hand family heirlooms. In excellent condition, "Rock Ford" is open to visitors as an historic house museum.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1793-1802

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The home, from 1793 to 1802, of Edward Hand, an able and fighting brigadier-general of the Continental Army during the War for Independence. The house - "Rock Ford" - is little altered.

Edward Hand, was born in 1744 at Clyduff, Kings County, Province of Leinster, Ireland. He studied medicine and attended lectures at Trinity College, Dublin, and emigrated to Philadelphia in 1767 as surgeon's mate in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment. He served at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania, a rugged frontier post, where he was commissioned as ensign in 1772. In 1774 he resigned his commission at Philadelphia and moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to practice medicine. He married in 1775 and had six children by this marriage. Hand entered the Continental Army, being commissioned a lieutenant-colonel on June 25, 1775, in Colonel William Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion, which participated in the siege of Boston 1775-76. Hand became colonel of the 1st Continental Infactory on January 1, 1777. Hand performed gallantly against Cornwallis and Howe at Long Island and in the engagements at White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton, 1776-77. Promoted brigadier-general in the Continental Army on April 1, 1777, Hand was despatched shortly thereafter to Fort Pitt in western Pennsylvania to mobilize the militia against the Indians and Tories. For many months he faced the almost insurmountable task of keeping the militia together, and checking the very active Indians and Tories. In February, 1778, Hand set out with 500 men, mostly militia, to attack Sandusky, a forward British base. But melting snow and rain swelled the rivers and forced him to abandon this expedition with has been called the "Sqaw Campaign". Discouraged by the most trying difficulties and not receiving sufficient military assistance, Hand asked to be relieved of this command and finally in August 1778, General Lachlen McIntosh took over.

Late in 1778 Hand assumed command of the frontier defenses of northern New York, with headquarters in Albany. In the summer of 1779 Hand commanded a brigade of Pennsylvania Continental Regiments in Major General John Sullivan's expedition against the Six Nations in central New York. In 1780 Hand was assigned the command of a newly organized brigade of light infantry, and on January 8, 1783, Congress brevetted him a major general and Hand resigned from the army on November 3, 1783. A strict disciplinarian, Hand was also known for his energy, daring, and excellent horsemanship. Washington regarded him highly for his zeal and ability.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

GENERAL EDWARD HAND HOUSE - "ROCK FORD" - Lancaster County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

After the war, Hand resumed his practice of medicine at Lancaster, also ^{considerable} time to political and civic affairs. He purchased the 160-acre farm that he named "Rock Ford" for \$7,500 in the fall of 1783 and here in 1793-94 he built the existing house which was to be his home until his death. Hand was a member of Congress, 1784-85; in the Pennsylvania Assembly, 1785-86; a presidential elector, 1789; and a member of the Pennsylvania constitutional convention, 1789-90. As Burgess of Lancaster (1789) he wrote to Congress urging the selection of that town for the permanent seat of government. In politics, Hand was a Federalist. An intimate friend of Washington, on July 19, 1798, he was recommended for adjutant-general and commissioned major-general in the provisional army, holding this rank until June 15, 1800. Hand strenuously opposed Jefferson's election in 1800 and was active in holding the Federalists in the Pennsylvania Senate firm in the contest for that state's electors. From 1791 to 1801 he was inspector of customs of the United States. Early in Jefferson's administration Hand encountered difficulty in setting his accounts, and in 1802 a petition was brought to court to sell his lands. In the midst of this trouble, on September 3, 1802, he died suddenly from apoplectic stroke at "Rock Ford" near Lancaster. He was buried in the southwest corner of the churchyard of St. James' Episcopal Church, at North Duke and East Orange Streets, in Lancaster.

Hand actively promoted public improvements in the 1790's, held many local offices, and by his willingness to give medical aid gratuitously to the poor distinguished himself as a public benefactor.

Architecturally, the house is a fine example of the Georgian Manor residence with regional variations. Both facade and plan show the strict symmetrical design of large Georgian homes, while the three-sided porch (reconstructed) place the Georgian prototype in a rural setting. The result, both structure and variations, represent an excellent example of the adaptability of the Georgian design to local tastes.

"Rock Ford", located on the bank of the Conestoga River on South Duke Street, about four miles southeast of the center of Lancaster, was purchased by the Junior League of Lancaster in 1958, together with 28 acres of land, for \$8,000. The house was renovated and restored in the period 1958-60 and opened to visitors as a historic house museum.

- 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**
 Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. VIII, 8-224.
 Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 442.
 Paul J. FitzPatrick, "General Edward Hand and Rock Ford", International Review of History and Political Science, May 1968.
 Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution, (2 Vols, New York, 1952), 106, 212, 214-16, 239, 255, 309, 314, 639-645, 852.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	3 9 0 0 9 0	4 4 3 0 5 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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 Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian/
 Madeline L. Cohen, Curator

ORGANIZATION Division of History/
 Office of Historic Preservation DATE February, 1972/
 May, 1976

STREET & NUMBER National Park Service/
 Penna. Historical & Museum Comm, Box 1026 TELEPHONE 717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Washington/
 Harrisburg STATE D.C./
 Pennsylvania

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 Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 8/9/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

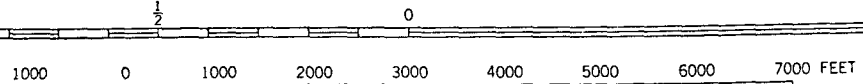
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



(CONESTOGA) NEW DANVILLE 1.1 MI. 17'30" REFTON 5.5 MI.
 PEQUEA 11 MI. WILLOW STREET 1.5 MI. QUARRYVILLE 12 MI.
 WAKEFIELD 17 MI. 72

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

Rock Ford
 LANCASTER QUADRANGLE

