

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cooke's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Tom Paine's House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
438-440 Codorus Street

CITY OR TOWN:
York

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: York CODE: 133

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>unoccupied</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of York

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall 50 West King Street

CITY OR TOWN: York STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
York County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
28 East Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: York STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Catalog of Historical Sites, Buildings and Remains in Pa.

DATE OF SURVEY: 1949 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pa. Historical and Museum Comm.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

STANDARD FORM NO. 101-108

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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1761, this stone house with a four window front facing east has stone arched over window supports on the first floor level. The original date stone with builder's inscription is yet in place over the original front door location. Both Germanic and Provincial Georgian architectural features were used. Gable ends still have the original cornice boards with the peculiar 'outward kick' or upsweep about one foot from the lower ends. Originally the central chimney system of the German settlers was installed. At the turn of the last century, the house was converted into a double dwelling by facing the north gable end with a brick double entrance front and the interior ~~was~~ divided along its north-south axis.

At present, the house is newly roofed, interiors gutted except for a few remaining original baseboards and chair rails. Basically only the stone shell remains and can be seen in the enclosed photograph.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1761

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

Built in 1761, the Cookes House is the third oldest surviving structure in the City of York. It predates the time (Sept. 1777- June 1778) when York (Yorktowne) was briefly the ~~Capital~~ ^{Seat of Govt,} of the United States. Strong local tradition ties this house as the residence of Thomas Paine (Secretary of Foreign Affairs) at the time Congress convened in York. In the area surrounding the house, Congressmen grazed their horses. Tradition also claims that national documents were stored in the Cookes House.

The House is also the earliest surviving stone building in York (the 1751 Gen. Gates House being rebuilt). It is an interesting mixture of traditional Germanic architecture with influences of Georgian ^msymetry in its facade.

Other than the Friends Meeting House built in the 1760's, the Cookes House is the last remaining building in York having direct connections with York's term as the Federal Capital.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY York	
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(Number all entries)

Testimony of Historic Significance

In April of 1969 Mrs. Gorman Knaub informed Walter Van Baman, Attorney at law, that her father, Robert Kline of Mount Royal, Dover Rd1, Pa., when he was 15 years old in 1903 and his father, then living in the Cookes House, found letters in the rear shed of the house. These letters were damp, mouldy and so they spread them in the sun to dry along with other articles.

He recalls the letters were addressed to Thomas Paine at Yorktowne. All were from one woman of London. Not knowing their value Mr. Kline and his father burned them with the debris removed from the shed.

Mrs. Knaub is quite willing to attest to the truth of these facts.

Attorney Van Baman has sworn statements made by Mr. W.F.O. Rosenmiller, now deceased, who recalled as a child in the late 1800's being shown the Cookes House and having it described to him as the place where Thomas Paine stayed when in York doing work with the Continental Congress.

M. Conway in his book Life of Thomas Paine 1892 Putnam N.Y. Volume I page 102 states,

"the stone house on the banks of the Codorus at York is still pointed out by trustworthy tradition as that to which he bore the chest of Congressional papers with which he had fled to Trenton when Howe entered Philadelphia."

A footnote on the same page: "The house is marked B (built) by J. B. Cookis in the year 1761. It is probable that Congress deemed it prudent to keep important documents a little way from the edifice in the centre of the town where it met, a building which no longer stands."

* Refers to the County Court House built in 1755 and torn down in 1841.

Other than the Friends Quaker Meeting House built in the 1760's Cookes House is the last remaining building in York having direct connections with this Town's term as capital of the United States of America.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Life of Thomas Paine. New York, Putnam & Sons: 1892 and 1909
Life and Works of Thomas Paine. by Thos. Paine National
 Historic Association, 1925
 York Gazette and Daily, York Pa. April 3, 1969
York's Centennial Memorial. Hiram Young, 1887

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	57'	16"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	76°	44'	08"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: March, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

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

Name: *Walter J. Weaver*

Title: _____

Date: 3/18/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Cookes House

5663 IV NE
(WEST YORK)

GETTYSBURG 28 MI.
1.5 MI. TO PA. 234

SHILOH 2.8 MI.

1.8 MI. TO PA. 74

