



Valley, Forge, Pennsylvania  
 SW/4 ~~Northtown~~ 15' Quadrangle (Valley Forge)  
 N400 - W7522.5/7.5  
 1966  
 Ams 5964 III SW - Series V831

former quarters of Brigadier General Duportail

latitude: 40 04' 47" longitude: 75° 27' 03"

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania  
 COUNTY: Chester  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. NAME

COMMON: Former Quarters of Brigadier General Duportail  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Cressbrook Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: off Valley Forge Road, route 363  
 CITY OR TOWN: Tredyffrin Township  
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Chester CODE: 029

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: University of Pennsylvania  
 STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Chester County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: High Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: West Chester STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026  
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
 COUNTY: Chester  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOR N.P.S. USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## ORIGINAL

The original house built shortly after 1740 was a small farmhouse typical of those built by the early Chester County settlers. It was enlarged several times since 1825, mostly in the original section. The major addition was a two-and-a-half-story structure with five bays across the front. A Victorian porch was added in latter years.

## PRESENT

The building is a two-and-a-half-story stucco structure built in two sections. The original building, altered greatly from its original appearance, is located to the rear of the present house. The nineteenth-century addition was built along a vertical axis, while that of the eighteenth-century, along a horizontal axis. The front of the house is five bays across with a central doorway and fanlight. the windows are six-over-nine sashes. The roof has two arched window dormers and a wide chimney at each end. The back section has a shed roof dormer on the north side. A porch with ornate ironwork covers the front door and two of the inner windows of the first floor.

The interior of the house has been altered greatly. What once was a central hallway flanked by two rooms is now one large room with a fireplace at both ends. The ceiling of the room in which Duportail is believed to have stayed has been raised.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1740s and 1825

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the winter encampment of General Washington's forces at Valley Forge in 1777-1778, Brigadier General Louis Lebique Duportail used the John Harvard house as his headquarters. Duportail, a French engineer, was Chief of Engineers for the Continental forces and planned the defenses used at Valley Forge. Washington used the skills of the Chevalier for designing forts and other defensive works throughout the Revolutionary War. Legend says that Duportail briefly shared his quarters with General William Woodford.

The original portion of the house was built by John Harvard shortly after 1740. The land was part of a tract owned by the elder John Harvard and divided among his three sons. It is believed that the room occupied by Duportail during the encampment was above the original kitchen in the rear of the present building. Some years following the departure of the Frenchman the drawings made by him for the Valley Forge defenses were found in the rafters of this room.

In 1825 an addition was built to the front of the house. This addition was executed in a classical manner with large equi-spaced windows, arched window dormers, and a fanlight above the central door. Cressbrook Farm, as it is known, was donated to the University of Pennsylvania by an alumnus as a site for future expansion.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pinkowski, Edward. Washington's Officers Slept Here.  
Philadelphia: Sunshine Press, 1953.

Woodman, Henry. The History of Valley Forge. Oaks, Pa.:  
John Francis, 1922.

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	° ' "	° ' "		40 04 47	75 27 03	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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: **1/14/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1026**

CITY OR TOWN: **Harrisburg**      STATE: **Pennsylvania**      CODE: **42**

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

*Debbie A. Brown*  
State Liaison Officer

Deputy Title

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Date

4/17/72

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