

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic GENERAL JOHN LACEY HOMESTEAD

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Forest Grove Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Buckingham Township \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bucks code 017

**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 type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Frances Mary Walters

street & number Forest Grove Road

city, town Wycombe \_\_\_ vicinity of state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Doylestown state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Inventory  
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1980 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Section 1: 2½ story, random fieldstone construction, slate gable roof, large fieldstone interior end chimney, molded box cornice and returns. 1755 datestone on ground level on north face. First floor, South face: 2 bay, one large 6/6 peg construction window in a plain frame, stone lintel, 2 panel shutters; one recessed door of 2 panel, 9 light, 2 panel design, wooden 8 light, 1 panel storm door, 3 pane rectangular outer transom, molded triangular pediment. Second floor South face: 2 bay, two 6/6 windows in plain frames with heavy sills and louvered shutters.

Section 2: 2½ story, coursed fieldstone construction, slate gable roof, brick interior end chimney at west end, molded box cornice. First floor South face: 2 bay, one small 6/6 ped construction window in plain frame with 2 panel, 6 light,, 2 panel door, 4 pane rectangular outer transom, 8 light, 1 panel wooden storm door, molded triangular pediment. Second floor South face: 2 bay, two 6/6 peg construction windows in plain frames that reach soffit of cornice with louvered shutters.

Section 3: 2½ story, coursed fieldstone construction with plastered east end, slate gable roof, brick interior end chimney at east end, molded box cornice which does not quite reach end of house. First floor South face: 1 bay, one 6/6 window in plain frame with 2 panel shutters. This bay has a segmental arch which has brickwork between arch and window frame as well as evidence of altered stonework under frame which is partially obscured by brush. Second floor South face: 1 bay, one 6/6 window in plain frame with thin sill and louvered shutters.

Section 4: 1½ story, plastered stone construction, asbestos shingle gable roof, open cornice. First floor North face: 2 bay, one small double 6/6 window in plain frame; one small single 6/6 window in plain frame.

Section 5: 1½ story enclosed shed porch, plastered stone or cinderblock construction, asbestos shingle shed roof, box cornice. First floor North face: 7 bay, one modern dutch door with aluminum storm door; six windows in the following pattern, two 28 pane picture windows each flanked by a 6/6 window.

Section 6: 1½ story, frame construction with narrow cornerboards, uneven slope asbestos shingle gable roof, plain box cornice. First floor North face: one bay, one central door of contemporary design.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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

Builder/Architect John Lacey - Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The major basis for seeking historic registration for this house is its association with General John Lacey of Revolutionary War fame. The house was completed in 1755 by John Lacey, the father of the future general, just a few months before the birth of his son. The younger John Lacey grew up on the farm and spent his youth working in the family mill located a few hundred yards from the house. This mill had begun operation circa 1743.

This house and surrounding property including a grist and saw mill were part of a tract of 192 acres which the elder John Lacey had inherited from his father. It was part of a 292 acre tract which was patented to William Lacey in 1718. General Lacey owned the property until 1778 when he sold it to avoid its destruction by British forces.

As early as 1775 John Lacey, although an Orthodox Quaker by birth and upbringing, was one of the first men in the area to rally to the patriotic cause. His fervent embracing of the patriotic cause and volunteering for military service resulted in his expulsion from meeting. It also led to the nickname "the fighting Quaker."

In January 1776 Lacey raised a company of Bucks County Militia and was elected lieutenant. He served under General Anthony Wayne in the ill fated Canadian campaign, often acting as personal courier from Wayne to General Benedict Arnold. By the time John Lacey had reached the age of 23 he had been promoted to the rank of brigadier general. General Lacey was assigned a command in the Bucks County area. The winter of 1777-78 saw Lacey in command of troops stationed at Crooked Billet. This was perhaps one of the American's key positions for it protected General Washington and the bulk of the American army encamped at Valley Forge.

The assignment was very difficult as the area was rife with Tory sympathizers, trade with the enemy and spy activity. In May of 1778 the American position was attacked and defeated by British troops under the direction of General Howe. Although General Lacey suffered a defeat he received no personal discredit for the affair. In fact Lacey was elected as a Member of the State Assembly in November of that year and to the State Executive Council in 1779.

The John Lacey house is an excellent example of an 18th century Bucks County farmhouse which has grown through the years without losing any of its historic character. This old stone house was built in several

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

JOHN LACEY HOMESTEAD, Bucks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

phases over the past 200 years with the earliest construction dating from 1755. This section was a 2½ story square stone cabin with a large walk-in fireplace containing half story square stone cabin with a large walk-in fireplace containing a bake oven as well as a traditional winding staircase typical of that era. The stairway was closed off when a large stairway was built in a later section of the house.

There is an obvious seam between the exterior stonework of this section and the adjoining one. This difference is obvious not only on the exterior where the newer section has better dressed stone but in both the attic and basement. Curiously, the only means of entering the attic of the old section is by the small gable window which now leads to the attic of section two.

The second section is built on the same line and height as the first. Its most interesting exterior features are its coursed fieldstone and keystone above the first floor window. The interior has a built in wall cabinet, molding around the doors and a molded chair rail. The old fireplace and the winding staircase which were on the west wall of this section (adjoining the old section) were both covered over when a large grand stairway was built. Evidence of both features can be seen in the attic. The entire east end of this section was removed to allow later expansion.

This extension of the house probably dates to the late eighteenth century as it has a good sized fireplace on its end wall on both the first and second floor rather than stovepipe holes. The third section was built to enlarge the parlor and bedroom above it rather than to provide room for larger family. The builders took care to match interior details on the main floor where visitors were received, but were not so exacting upstairs where the juncture of the two sections is quite obvious.

In the middle of the bedroom walls, where the newer section begins, there is an indentation of approximately one or two inches to accommodate a thinner exterior wall which was used in the newer section. The seam is exaggerated by the break in the chair rail which runs along the wall of the older section.

The exterior of this section also has an unusual feature. The window of this section looks as if it was originally a door. It has a segmental arch above it and altered stonework beneath it. The only major 18th century improvement to the house was the construction of a one story kitchen on the north face of section one. Recent changes include the enclosing of a rear porch behind sections 2 and 3 and the construction of a small frame addition on the west end of the original cabin.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attachment Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Buckingham, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	4	9	8	2	4	0	4	4	5	8	9	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### 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 Jeffrey L. Marshall

organization Jeffrey Marshall Research date

street & number 22 Red Rose Way telephone 215-945-0114

city or town Levittown state Pennsylvania 19056

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the states:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
title Office of Historic Preservation date

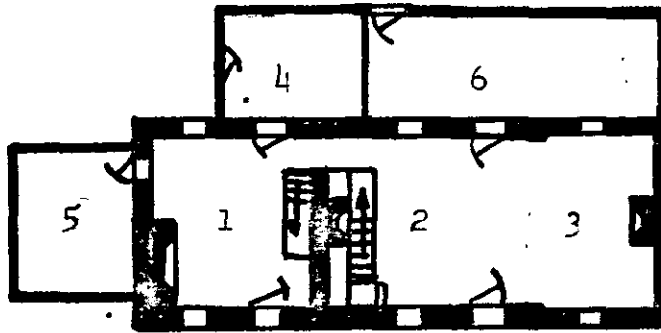
For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
date

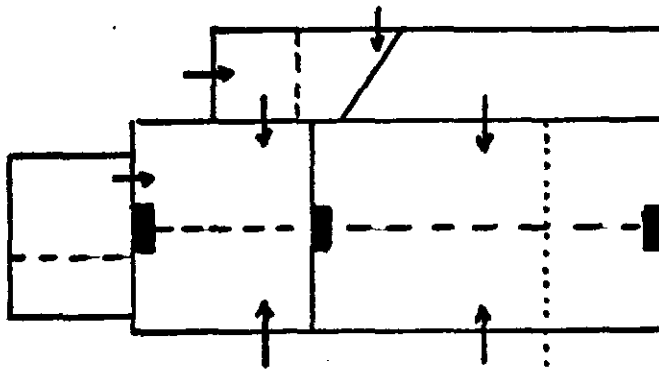
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



first floor:



roof lines:

end of section

Section 1: c. 1755

Section 2: mid to late 1700's

Section 3: late 1700's to early 1800's

Section 4: mid 1800's

Section 5: c. 1955-1965

Section 6: c. 1965

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

GENERAL JOHN LACEY HOMESTEAD, Bucks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Battle, J. H. History of Bucks County, Pa. A. Warner Co., Phila. 1887.

Davis, W. H. H. History of Bucks County, Pa. Vol. I, II, III, Lewis  
Publishing Co. New York, 1905.

Davis, W. H. H. Sketch of the Life and Character of John Lacey ...,  
Printed privately, 1868.

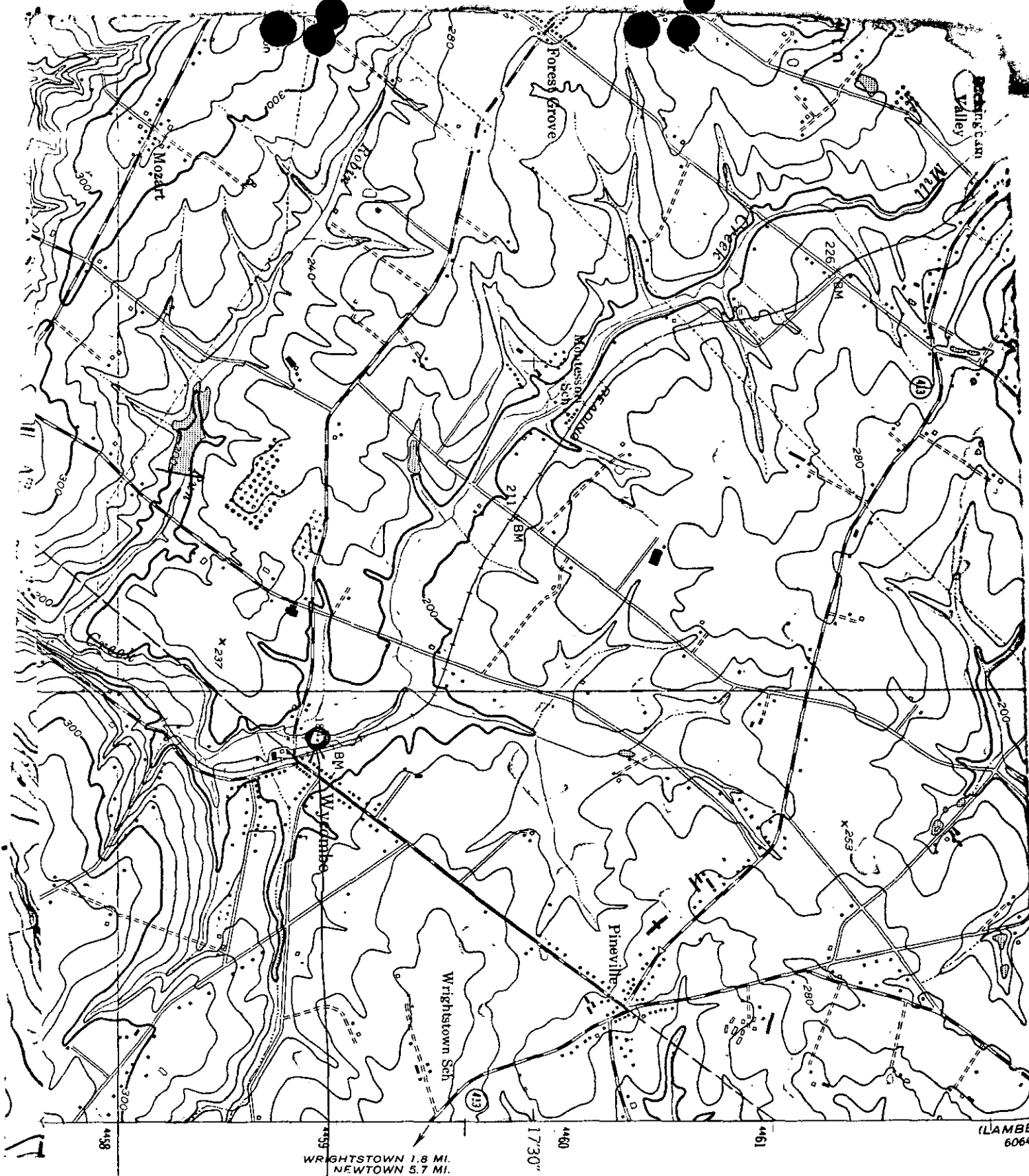
Bucks County Deedbooks 1681 - present

Recorded Wills of Bucks County 1681 - present

Orphan's Court Docket of Bucks County

Articles appearing in the Bucks County Historical Society Journal Vols  
1-7; Published for the Society by B. F. Fackenthal including those  
listed below:

1. Scarborough, Annie L. "Early History of Wrightstown Township" vol.  
1, pps. 110-115.
2. Davis, W. W. H. "Bucks County in the Revolution", volume 1, pp  
153-160.
3. Yerkes, Harrison, "Historic Sketch of Hatboro and Vicinity"  
volume 2, pp 152-157.
4. Davis, W. W. H., "Battle of Crooked Billet" volume 2, pp. 173-186.
5. Davis, W. W. H., "General John Lacey Our Quaker General" volume  
3, pp. 32-41.



General John Lacey Homestead  
Bucks County  
Zone 18 E498240 N4458910