

PHILADELPHIA 12 MI. 5'  
 NORRISTOWN 11 MI. SE 596'

JOSEPH WALKER HOUSE  
 Chester County  
 Valley Forge Quadrangle  
 Zone 18  
 E463050 N4436140

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Joseph Walker House

and/or common Wayne's Quarters

2. Location

street & number 274 Anthony Wayne Drive

~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Tredyffrin Twp.

~~N/A~~ vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county Chester

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 Alexander and Mary Colette Kennedy

street & number 274 Anthony Wayne Drive

city, town Wayne

~~N/A~~ vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 19087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Recorder of Deeds, Courthouse

street & number High Street

city, town West Chester

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chester Co. Historic Sites Survey; this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
(1979-82); Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (1968)

date Inventory of Historic Sites  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

city, town West Chester

state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>184</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Joseph Walker house sits on 1.3 landscaped acres less than a mile from the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Despite the suburban character of the surrounding neighborhood, the integrity of setting of the Walker house has been protected by its large lot complete with a pond and mature trees. The nominated property contains one contributing building.

The long (11-bay) Joseph Walker house consists of four principal sections, beginning with the c.1757 stone core on the western end and terminating in a 20th-century frame wing on the eastern end. Of high quality throughout, each section in harmony with the others, architecturally the Joseph Walker house is one of Tredyffrin Township's most prominent residences. It was owned and occupied by members of the important Walker family for over 150 years.

The 18th-century core occupies the three western bays. It is stone, two stories, double pile, with a plain gable roof, box cornice, and large end chimney. Showing remarkable integrity, this section's exterior dimensions (30 by 28 feet) correspond exactly to those given for Joseph Walker's residence in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. This assessment also indicates that the house had twelve 15-light and two 12-light windows. Again, the current fenestration of the Walker house matches that noted in 1798.

The original floor plan of the core was a typical side-hall, or "two-thirds Georgian," plan with an attached kitchen. The main entrance and stair hall formed the eastern bay. In classic colonial arrangement, doors on the north and south walls were (and still are) in direct opposition. A small window adjacent to the door on the south wall suggests the location of the original stairway. Remaining fireplace supports on the west wall of the full cellar indicate there were back-to-back corner fireplaces on the first and second floors. One of these corner fireplaces has been exposed in the second floor bedroom. The first floor corner fireplaces have been removed.

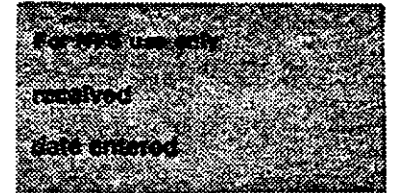
The Direct Tax and an inventory taken after Joseph Walker's death in 1818 provide good clues about the location and size of the original kitchen. It measured 22 by 16 feet and stood one and-a-half stories to the east of the 1757 core. A huge barrel vault in the cellar shows that the cooking fireplace was located where the current library's fireplace stands. In addition to the kitchen, the 1818 inventory mentions a "clockroom" (parlor), "long room" (dining room), two cellars, and several rooms used as sleeping quarters.

About 1820, the original kitchen was absorbed into a major wing which was stone, two bays wide, two stories high, and shared a common ridge and box cornice with the core. Today this wing contains the library on the first floor and bedrooms on the second.

A second major addition to the Joseph Walker house was made c. 1870 and is two stories on the north side and two-and-a-half stories on the south. Its south wall is recessed from the first two sections of the house by

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several feet. Currently, a two-story enclosed sleeping porch projects from this wall. Like the first wing, this one is stone, two bays wide, and shares a common ridge and part of a box cornice (on the north wall) with the core.

The last major addition to the Joseph Walker House was made in the 1920s. Of frame construction featuring horizontal wood siding, it is four bays wide. Its roof profile and recessed south wall echo those of the adjacent section. There are three gable dormers on the north slope of the roof. A classic early twentieth-century service wing, it contains the kitchen, pantry, laundry room, a bathroom, and bedrooms.

The rehabilitation of the Joseph Walker House was undertaken by Lowell Gable (1887-1962) in the 1950s. For many years preceding architect R. Brognard Okie's death in 1945, Gable had served as Okie's chief contractor/builder working on such major projects as the reconstruction of Pennsbury Manor and restoration of Lafayette's Quarters in Valley Forge Park. When Gable and his wife purchased the property in 1956, it had been unoccupied for years. According to Gable's wife he repaired the staircase, replaced broken window panes with old glass, opened two closed-off fireplaces, added two bathrooms, built bookcases in the library, added the Okie-style sleeping porch, and restored existing millwork. In the dining room, Gable added a built-in corner cupboard. These interior features executed by a craftsman trained by Pennsylvania's premier exponent of the Colonial Revival, "Pennsylvania style," will surely acquire significance over time.

Although the Walker family holdings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were extensive, and included a grist mill rather near the Joseph Walker House, today there are no significant accessory structures on the property. Even the historical marker erected in 1890 by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution (with the inscription "Six hundred yards northeast of this stone were the headquarters of Anthony Wayne in 1777-1778") now sits on a separate parcel.

## 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1757, 1777, 1820, 1870  
c. 1920

Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

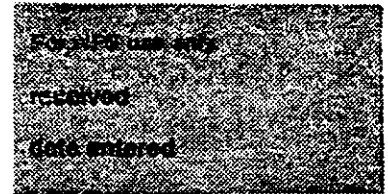
The Joseph Walker house is of military and architectural significance. Having served as the headquarters of General Anthony Wayne during the Valley Forge encampment, it is an important site in the network of Revolutionary army command established in the winter of 1777-8. Architecturally, the house is a well preserved and high quality example of the additive Pennsylvania farmhouse.

The Joseph Walker house served as General Anthony Wayne's quarters during the Revolutionary army's legendary six-month encampment at Valley Forge. As commander of both the First and Second Pennsylvania Brigades, Wayne had greater administrative responsibility than any other Brigadier General on George Washington's staff. From his headquarters at the Joseph Walker house between December 19, 1777 and June 18, 1778, Wayne successfully commanded his two brigades in defense of Valley Forge; wrote the Quartermaster relentlessly for more equipment and clothing for troops; departed on food foraging expeditions to New Jersey; and met with and entertained George Washington and other key figures of the encampment.

It seems that Wayne's selection of the Walker house as his headquarters was based on family connections. Joseph Walker's wife, Sarah Thomas Walker, was Wayne's first cousin. The Walker's were an important and wealthy family in Tredyffrin, having profited from their interests in mills and the original Valley Forge. Although Wayne's own home, Waynesborough, was just five miles east in Paoli, the General established himself at Valley Forge in an area then known as Mount Joy, close to the troops he commanded and General Washington.

Wayne was influential in the decision by Washington to spend the winter in encampment at Valley Forge. In a letter dated December 4th, 1777, he wrote, "I am not for a Winter's Campaign in the open field," and "The distress and Naked Situation of our troops will not admit it." In the same letter he proposed taking a position at Wilmington or "hutting at a distance of about twenty miles west of Philadelphia."<sup>1</sup> Although various other positions were recommended, Wayne's choice prevailed. The Valley Forge location proved advantageous in that it restricted the British army's foraging to a small area of only about 12 miles around Philadelphia. Wayne also advised Washington that militia units be employed to harass foraging parties. The Valley Forge position proved to be one of unusual strength, consisting of two defensive lines. The outer, on Mount Joy, was occupied by 10 brigades of the Continental Army. Wayne had a position in the right center between the brigades of Charles Scott and Enoch Poor.

Wayne's presence at the Walker house is documented in a letter dated February 7, 1778<sup>2</sup> in which Wayne urged his wife to visit him there. According to the eyewitness account of Lewis Walker, a youth when Wayne stayed at his family's home, several members of Wayne's staff also were

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quartered there, including Colonel Thomas Robinson, Major Benjamin Fishbourne, and Major Ryan. Lewis Walker recalled that Dr. Robert Blackwell, a physician to the army, also stayed there.<sup>3</sup>

Joseph Walker, the builder of the house, represented the third generation of his family in Tredyffrin Township. By 1708 his grandfather, Lewis Walker, had settled in the Great Valley and accumulated nearly 1000 acres of land, extending west from the Montgomery County line to Baptist Road. He left a small portion of his lands to the Friends on which they erected the Great Valley Meetinghouse. Joseph Walker was a gentleman farmer and miller, assisted by his brother Asahel. His descendents resided in the house until the 1900s, and in 1906 the property was purchased by Alfred Clements of Willits and Company. Clements was the inventor of the platinograph, a device used in high-grade picture painting. Under his ownership, the Walker estate became a stock farm for the breeding of horses.

In addition to its importance as the Revolutionary War headquarters of Anthony Wayne during the Valley Forge encampment, the Joseph Walker House is a well preserved example of a long established tradition in rural Pennsylvania architecture--the additive farmhouse. It was expanded linearly from west to east, beginning with the 1757 Georgian vernacular core and terminating in a Colonial Revival service wing. All three additions were designed and constructed in remarkable harmony with the core and with each other. There is a consistency in scale, rhythms, and the choice of materials in the Joseph Walker House.

Although each section of the house is compatible with that which is adjacent, individually they are representative of regional historical styles. The Georgian core, for example, is entirely typical of other substantial houses of the period. The roof seen on the third section is found in other mid-nineteenth century houses of Chester County, particularly as additions to earlier houses. A high quality house throughout, the architecture of the Joseph Walker House shows a respect for the work of previous generations, and construction that will endure for those that follow.

1. Anthony Wayne to George Washington, December 4, 1777, Wayne Papers, Brief General Wayne Camp, Vol. 4, p.51, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

2. Anthony Wayne to Mrs. Wayne, February 7, 1778, Wayne Papers, Volume IV; September 1777-March 1778, p. 77, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

3. Doylestown Intelligencer, 1850.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Interviews:

Keenan, Suzanne, Curator, Valley Forge Historical Society, May 14, 1985.  
Tyler, John, Chief of Interpretation, Valley Forge National Historical Park,  
May 14, 1985. (see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.303 acres

Quadrangle name Valley Forge

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 18 463050 4436140  
Zone Easting Northing

B                 
Zone Easting Northing

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are identical with Chester County tax parcel #43-54-50. The boundaries contain the nominated building and all remaining historically associated land.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>
<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MA</u>

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne H. Cook with Martha Leigh Wolf

organization Brandywine Conservancy

date 8/20/86

street & number P.O. Box 141

telephone (215) 388-7601 ext.143

city or town Chadds Ford

state Pennsylvania 19317

## 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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

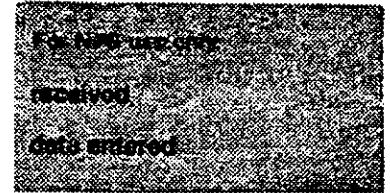
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
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Interview with Mrs. George Armstrong (by previous marriage Mrs. Lowell Gable),  
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1906. "Village Record." April 10, 1823.

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Spring, 1973, p. 19.

Heathcote, Charles William. "Wayne, Von Steuben, and Muhlenberg: Heroes of the  
Revolution." The Picket Post, First Quarter, 1978.

Kent, Donald H. "Anthony Wayne Man of Action," Historic Pennsylvania Leaflet #2,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1958.

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Pinkowski, Edward. Washington's Officers Slept Here. Philadelphia: Sunshine Press,  
1953, pp. 76-81.

Streets, Pricilla Walker, Lewis Walker of Chester Valley and His Descendents.  
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Tax Assessment Records, 1715-1939, Chester County Archives, West Chester, PA

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pp. 105-113.

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1850, Chester County Archives, West Chester, PA.



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A 

1	8	4	6	3	0	50	44	36	1	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing				

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing				

C 

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D 

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H 

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date 11/27/86

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date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration