

Preserving the Past, A Case Study:  
The General Greene Inn, Bucks County, Pennsylvania  
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## **Introduction**

This essay will examine the historical significance of The General Greene Inn, a historic property in Buckingham Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Considering the development of historic preservation guidelines nationally and within the state of Pennsylvania, the author will explore how they apply to The General Greene Inn.

### **I. Historic Preservation**

Historic preservation can be described as the “practice of protecting and preserving sites, structures or districts which reflect elements of local or national cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological or architectural history.”<sup>1</sup> In modern day societies, historic preservation is often associated with the preservation of buildings and structures which include, but are not limited to cemeteries, farms, and infrastructure. The broader idea of historic preservation began with the effort to preserve history as demonstrated through museum work. Today, historic preservation is prevalent in the realm of both public and private entities. Often historic preservation as it relates to the public may focus on the creation of places such as historic house museums. Although, historic preservation can also be applied to privately owned entities such as a historic structure utilized as a home or place of business.

There is a common misconception between the term “preservation” and “conservation” in the United States. This is because some cultures use these words interchangeably, but in the United States there are key differences between the two. An individual who works in the field of historic preservation is referred to as a preservationist. Preservationists can work in several

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<sup>1</sup> Theodore R. Hazen, “What is Historic Preservation?,” Tempe Center for the Arts, 1, <https://www.tempecenterforthearts.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=16769#:~:text=Hazen%20%2D%20Historic%20preservation%20is%20the,political%2C%20archaeological%20or%20architectural%20history>.

different fields including architecture, engineering, archaeology, construction, museums, etc. Each preservationist will have a different focus area depending on the field they work in. The most common focusses of preservationists are research, documentation, advocacy, or the involvement in physical preservation, which focuses on the application of the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties."<sup>2</sup>

In the United States, the concept of conservation is usually applied to one of two ideas: environmental or cultural property. A conservationist is an individual who works to conserve environmental resources, while someone who works to conserve physical property is referred to as a conservator. Conservators typically focus on examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care. Each conservator may have a different area of discipline in which they focus their conservation efforts. Some of the most common objects that are conserved are archaeological artifacts, textiles, books and paper, paintings, or architecture. Conservators who specialize in architecture primarily focus on the cause of deterioration in historic buildings, followed by proposing treatment plans appropriate for each scenario.

Historic buildings serve many purposes in the modern world. They are witnesses to historical events and cultural history. These buildings play a significant role in connecting the people of today with events of the past. In many cases, historic buildings represent an event or time in history that is important to people living in that area, or those who visit the site. After the conclusion of World War II and into the late forties, there was an increased need for a national organization to assist in preservation efforts. On October 26, 1949 President Truman signed legislation to establish the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The privately funded, non-

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<sup>2</sup> The Secretary of the Interior, "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties," U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service: Technical Preservation Services, Washington, D.C., 2017.

profit organization based in Washington, D.C. was tasked with preserving historic sites and objects having great significance to the nation<sup>3</sup>

While the Truman Administration began to implement programs to preserve the nation's history, the subsequent administrations were unable to accomplish the same. In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower enacted the Federal Highway Act of 1956 which established the Interstate Highway System as a means of transportation for troops to depart if under attack. The construction of 41,000 miles of highway resulted in the destruction of many historic properties. Then in the 1960s President John F. Kennedy's launched the Urban Renewal Program with the hope of rejuvenating many of the country's cities. Unfortunately, this program increased the destruction of downtown areas, thus destroying more historic properties.<sup>4</sup>

When President Lyndon B. Johnson took office, there was an increase in the public's concern regarding the nation's recent destruction. Johnson's wife, Lady Bird Johnson coordinated an accumulation of essays reporting on the recent impact of urban renewal. Titled *With Heritage So Rich*, this series of essays inventoried properties with significance to national heritage. It also provided a proposed mechanism to protect these properties from future federal initiatives. In 1966 Congress enacted the National Historic Building Preservation Act, aiming to recognize the significance of historic buildings to both the public and the heritage of the nation. According to the 1966 Act, "preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, "National Trust for Historic Preservation," nps.gov.

<sup>4</sup> Richard F. Weingroff, "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956: Creating The Interstate System," U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 1996.

<sup>5</sup> *The National Historic Preservation Act: As Amended through December 16, 2016 and Codified in Title 54 of the United States Code*, Public Law 89-665; 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq., (1966) 1.

## **II. Early Historic Preservation in the United States**

Historic preservation in the United States began in 1816 when the city of Philadelphia purchased Independence Hall. Independence Hall was first dated to 1729 when the Pennsylvania Assembly set out to construct “a House for the Assembly of this Province to meet in.”<sup>6</sup> In 1732, when construction of the building began, it was in the outskirts of Philadelphia; on Chestnut Street in between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The development of Independence Hall expanded the limits of the City westward. Referred to then as the Pennsylvania State House, this building served as the location for many noteworthy events in the first half century of its tenure. The Pennsylvania State House served as a gathering place for celebrations, a provincial government, and societies such as the American Philosophical Society and the Library Company of Philadelphia.<sup>7</sup>

When individuals living in the thirteen colonies began to grapple with the idea of Independence from Great Britain, the State House served as a meeting location for the First and Second Continental Congresses due to Pennsylvania’s central location among the thirteen British colonies.<sup>8</sup> Eventually, the building would serve as the place where the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed in 1776, followed by a meeting place for the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Today, the building is remembered for its significance in many remarkable events which changed the course of American history.

After the conclusion of the War of the American Revolution, the State House continued to serve as the meeting place for Pennsylvania government. In 1799 Pennsylvania legislature moved their meeting place to Lancaster and later Harrisburg. The State House was then referred

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<sup>6</sup> Charlene Mires, “Independence Hall” The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, Rutgers University, 2012, <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/independence-hall/>.

<sup>7</sup> Mires, “Independence Hall.”

<sup>8</sup> Mires, “Independence Hall.”

to as the “old” State House. From 1790-1800 the State House served as the nation’s capitol and the meeting place of the federal government. In 1800 the federal government relocated from Philadelphia to the newly formed District of Columbia. Left vacant, the purpose of the old State House was uncertain. For a brief time, the second floor of the building housed the Charles Wilson Peale’s Museum in hopes that the American people would gain an appreciation for art and natural sciences.<sup>9</sup>

The building and the lot it resided on was owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and because the building no longer served a major purpose it was at risk for being sold as surplus state property. In 1813 and 1816 state proposals suggested selling the State House square, but Philadelphians strongly opposed the proposition. Philadelphia officials decided to purchase the building from the state to preserve both the building and its history. State officials then held guardianship of the building until the mid-twentieth century. The acquisition of the State House in 1816 is “regarded as important in the history of historic preservation in the United States.”<sup>10</sup> In the following decade during preparations for a visit from the Marquis de Lafayette, Philadelphians began to refer to the first-floor east room as “the Hall of Independence” and “Independence Hall.” Over time, the name Independence Hall was applied to the entirety of the building and the surrounding square.

### **III. The National Park Service**

In the late eighteenth century, a new movement emerged in Europe referred to as romanticism. One of the main ideas of romanticism was restoring humankind’s relationship with nature. During this time romantics attempted to feel more connected to nature; “they only knew

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<sup>9</sup> Mires, “Independence Hall.”

<sup>10</sup> Mires, “Independence Hall.”

that their feelings and thoughts expanded in forests, at the seaside, or in mountains: if they were tormented, their restlessness calmed down. They were thankful to nature for that soothing action.<sup>11</sup> Instead of viewing nature as oppressive, romantics now recognized nature for its beauty.

A few decades later, in the early nineteenth century, industrialism was on the rise in New England. New England was the first region of the United States to experience industrialism. This was due to the region's cool climate and poor soil condition, which proved difficult for farming. The rise of industrialization can be attributed to "the conversion of once lovely villages into grimy factory towns."<sup>12</sup> At the same time ideas related to romanticism began to spread from Europe to North America, and New Englanders quickly questioned their now industrialized society.

Influenced by both romanticism and industrialization in New England, transcendentalism, a new philosophical movement emerged. Transcendentalism focused on the principle that "nature mirrors the divine and thus offers moral guidance."<sup>13</sup> Quickly essayists, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau became central figures of transcendentalism. The two "found a receptive audience when they preached that a return to nature was the only remedy" to growing industrialization in the United States.<sup>14</sup>

When ideas associated with transcendentalism spread throughout the United States, Americans were intrigued with exploring undiscovered areas to the west. The first instance was in the 1960s when prospectors explored Montana and brought back reports of the beauty nature had to offer. This excited the citizens of the Montana Territory, and in 1870 a "full scale

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<sup>11</sup> Léon Rosenthal, *Romanticism*, (New York: Parkstone International, 2008), 38.

<sup>12</sup> Philip F. Gura, *American Transcendentalism: A History*, (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008), 103.

<sup>13</sup> Gura, *American Transcendentalism*, 103.

<sup>14</sup> William C. Everhart, *The National Park Service*, (Abingdon-on-Thames: Taylor & Francis, 2019), 5.

expedition was organized” with the intention to better document the region.<sup>15</sup> Soon thereafter, mentions of the expedition were found in publications of *The New York Times*. Increased publicity gave rise to the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, established by an act of Congress on March 2, 1867. Research collected during the survey allowed scientists to make great strides in their fields which increased public attention.

On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the act that established Yellowstone National Park in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming. The founding of Yellowstone National Park sparked an interest in establishing national parks not only in the United States, but across the globe. On August 25, 1916, under the Woodrow Wilson Administration, the National Park Service was established. Since then, the National Park Service has expanded its mission while continuing to focus on original goals. According to their website, “more than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 400+ national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.”<sup>16</sup> A focus on communities has aided in public interest to protect the nation’s cultural heritage.

During the expansion of the NPS, community revitalization became an area of interest for the NPS. Community revitalization focuses on “historic preservation, recreation, natural resource conservation, and education projects.”<sup>17</sup> As a part of this effort, the National Register of Historic Places was established under the National Historic Preservation Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 15, 1966. The National Register of Historic Places is “simply a list of

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<sup>15</sup> Everhart, *The National Park Service*, 8.

<sup>16</sup> “Quick History of the National Park Service,” National Park Service, last modified May 14, 2018, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/quick-nps-history.htm>.

<sup>17</sup> “Working With Communities,” The National Park Service, last modified September 2, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/communities.htm>.

properties in the United States that have been nominated for historical recognition using a set of criteria established by the National Park Service.”<sup>18</sup> Each state maintains a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which oversees their state’s applications for the National Register.

#### **IV. Historic Preservation in Pennsylvania**

Having gained the knowledge of historic preservation in the United States, this section will examine historic preservation within the state of Pennsylvania. By the mid twentieth century there were three major entities preserving Pennsylvania’s history. They were the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Pennsylvania State Museum, and Pennsylvania State Archives. On June 6, 1945, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act No. 446, merging the three entities to form the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The PHMC was tasked with the “collection, conservation, and interpretation of Pennsylvania's historic heritage.”<sup>19</sup> The Commission is made up of nine citizens of the Commonwealth who are appointed by the Governor. Other members include the Secretary of Education ex officio; two members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader; and two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker and Minority Leader.

In a statement included on the PHHMC’s website, their mission and vision statements are as follows:

PHMC Mission: The PHMC works in partnership with others to preserve the Commonwealth's natural and cultural heritage as a steward, teacher and advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and the nation.

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<sup>18</sup> John H. Sprinkle, Jr., *Crafting Preservation Criteria: The National Register of Historic Places and American Historic Preservation*, (Abingdon-on-Thames: Taylor & Francis, 2014), 1.

<sup>19</sup> “About Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,” Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, last modified 2021, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/About/Pages/default.aspx>.

PHMC Vision: The PHMC enriches people's lives by helping them to understand Pennsylvania's past, to appreciate the present, and to embrace the future.<sup>20</sup>

The powers of the PHMC can be found in Title 37, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

According to this "the commission shall have the power and duty to:"

(1) Serve as the official agency of the Commonwealth for the conservation of Pennsylvania's cultural heritage. (2) Preserve public records, historical documents and objects of historical interest, possession and control of which have been transferred to the commission. (3) Initiate, encourage, support and coordinate and carry out historic preservation efforts in this Commonwealth. (4) Provide for historical research and interpretation and public access to this heritage. (5) Sell to the public any publications that are published by any department, board, commission, or officer of the Commonwealth.<sup>21</sup>

One of the programs that allows the PHMC to communicate stories of Pennsylvania's history with the public is the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program. Cast aluminum markers are erected in areas of significance to narrate the "memory of people, places, events, and innovations that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians over the centuries since William Penn founded his Commonwealth."<sup>22</sup> George R. Beyer's *Guide to the Historical Markers of Pennsylvania*, details the formation of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission (PHC) by the General Assembly on July 25, 1913.

One of the major responsibilities of the commission was to "mark by proper monuments, tablets, or markers, places or buildings within this Commonwealth, where historical events have transpired, and . . . arrange for the care and maintenance for such markers or monuments."<sup>23</sup> In 1933, the PHC designed a new plaque to be installed. This effort was halted until the conclusion

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<sup>20</sup> "About Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission."

<sup>21</sup> *Title 37, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, § 301- General Powers and Duties.

<sup>22</sup> "Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program," Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, last modified 2021, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Historical-Markers/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>23</sup> George R. Beyer, *Guide to the State Historical Markers of Pennsylvania*, (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1991).

of World War II in 1945. By this time, the three major entities had been merged to form the PHMC, marking the beginning of a new period for the Historical Marker Program.

After evaluating the success of historical markers in other states, the PHMC modeled 500 new markers. These markers, which are still seen today can be described as featuring “a gold-colored text of raised characters on a deep blue background contained within a silver-colored frame.”<sup>24</sup> Markers were made of concrete and placed on top of posts; they were easier to install than previous markers mounted on boulders. The increased visibility of the markers allowed motorists to enjoy while driving by.

The PHMC offers a list of guidelines on their website for those interested in applying for a historical marker. To begin the application, one may ask themselves the following:

Is there a significant piece of history in your community that you would like to commemorate with a historical marker? Individuals, private organizations, local or county governments and public agencies are encouraged to nominate historic properties, persons, and events of significance on a state or national level for the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program.<sup>25</sup>

After providing the PHMC materials such as historical significance, bibliographies, proposed text, and supplemental items, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office employees will review the application. If the application is approved, officials will work to design and configure the marker for installation. In the case that an application is denied, comments will be provided, and a new application may be submitted in the following year. Inclusion in the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program is a great way to commemorate the rich history of Pennsylvania.

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<sup>24</sup> John Robinson and Karen Galle, “A Century of Marking History: One Hundred Years of the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program,” *Pennsylvania Heritage*, Fall 2014, <https://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/century-marking-history-100-years-pennsylvania-historical-marker-program/>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Historical-Markers/Pages/Nominate.aspx>

## **V. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office**

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a bureau within the PHMC is tasked with managing the state's historic preservation program.<sup>26</sup> The office also oversees the National Register program within the state. Eligibility requirements are based on the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The criteria require that a property is old enough to be deemed historic (generally fifty years), significantly contributed to patterns of our history; or associated with persons of significance to our history; or demonstrates noteworthy architecture.<sup>27</sup> The following are the steps necessary to complete the National Register process, as outlined by the Pennsylvania SHPO.

1. Historic Resource Survey Form (HRSF): This form provides descriptive and historical information about the property (building, site, structure, object, or district) being nominated such as when it was built, what it looks like, and why it is significant.

2. Determination of Eligibility: Using the National Register criteria, SHPO staff review the HRSF and determine if a property is eligible for listing in the National Register. Staff determinations are not a guarantee that a nomination will be successful and a property listed in the National Register.

3. National Register Nomination: If the property is determined eligible, the next step is to complete the National Park Service's National Register Nomination form. Guidance is available via the internet from the National Park Service and the SHPO. SHPO staff can also provide technical assistance to applicants.

4. State Review Board: Completed nominations are submitted to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board. The Board reviews the nomination, evaluates whether or not the property meets the criteria for listing, and assigns the property's level of significance. The Board recommends approved properties for listing to the National Park Service.

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<sup>26</sup> "The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office: General Information," Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, last modified 2021, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Pages/General-Information.aspx>.

<sup>27</sup> "National Register Bulletin: Technical Information on the National Register of Historic Places," U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Cultural Resources, last modified 1995, [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15\\_web508.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf).

5. National Park Service: The National Park Service has the final authority to list a property in the National Register. Properties approved by the Board are sent to National Register staff in Washington, D.C. for official listing in the National Register.<sup>28</sup>

Utilizing this knowledge of historic preservation, the following section of the paper will apply these findings through a case study of The General Greene Inn.

## **Case Study: The General Greene Inn**

### **I. Historical Significance in the American Revolution**

The General Greene Inn as it is known today is located on a corner lot at the intersection of York and Durham Roads in Buckingham Township, settled in the heart of Bucks County, Pennsylvania (Fig. 1). It is without a doubt that Bucks County residents will pass this building at some time during their residence. The building is situated along a busy road, leading to some of the county's most popular destinations. To most, this building appears from the outside as worn down, having little curb appeal. It is clearly an older building, lacking necessary care to preserve its character. The General Greene Inn has been renamed many times over the last two and a half centuries.

The first mention of this building in the historical record is on June 11, 1752 when Henry Jamison, born in neighboring Warwick Township petitioned in a session of court that he be recommended to the Governor for a tavern license. It is noted in the petition that Jamison “hath lately purchased the House and Plantation of Samuel Blaker,” although there is no further information regarding date of construction is mentioned. Jamison and his wife Mary used the building to operate the Buckingham Inn until Jamison’s death on June 29, 1766.<sup>29</sup> The

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<sup>28</sup> "Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office: National Register of Historic Places, Fact Sheet," Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, last modified March 2017, 2, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/National-Register-of-Historic-Places-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Bucks County Historical Society, *A Collection of Papers Read Before the Bucks County Historical Society*, “Bogart’s Inn, An Old Hostelry,” (1909).

Buckingham Inn became a popular place for local, county, and state officials to meet because of its convenient location in the middle of Bucks County.

In the year following Jamison's death, the tavern license was transferred to his widow Mary Jamison on September 10, 1767. That fall, Mary Jamison also petitioned the court for the sale of her husband's real estate, so she could become the purchaser. The title was taken from the widow and a transfer was made back to her as female sole. She continued to manage the tavern under the title Buckingham Inn until she met John Bogart in 1772. Shortly after their marriage, the Buckingham Inn became known as Bogart's Tavern, as referred to on the issued tavern licenses from 1773-1777.

During the same time that John and Mary Bogart were issued their first tavern license for Bogart's Tavern, that colonists living in thirteen colonies began to experience resentment towards the British monarchy. In many colonies, rumblings of Independence seeped into everyday conversations. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in response to growing tensions throughout the colonies. Given Bucks County's proximity to Philadelphia, situated just forty minutes to the north, it is easy to assume that the county could not ignore the sentiment of independence (Fig 2).

Even though both patriots and loyalists resided in the county, George Washington described the residents of the county as "disaffected" by the war in a letter he wrote on December 14, 1776. Author Aaron Sullivan's work examines the impact of the Revolutionary War on Philadelphians and those in the surrounding area. He describes the "disaffected" as "aware of what was going on around them...these people would yield to, but not rally to,

whoever held power. They had no strong political attachments and preferred to go about their daily lives with as little disruption as possible.”<sup>30</sup>

To further understand the sentiment of Bucks County in relationship to the War for Independence, historians have looked to events which began in the fall 1774. On October 14, 1774 the First Continental Congress issued “The Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances” as a direct response to the imposition of the Coercive Acts, referred to by colonists as the Intolerable Acts, by British Parliament in the spring of 1774.<sup>31</sup> These acts imposed by British Parliament were intended to punish colonists in Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party.

“The Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances” denied the right of British Parliament to impose taxes on the thirteen colonies, as well as criticized the British for stationing troops in Boston, Massachusetts. Furthermore, the Declaration responded, “to these grievous acts and measures” stating: “Americans cannot submit, but in hopes that their fellow subjects in Great-Britain will, on a revision of them, restore us to that state in which both countries found happiness and prosperity.”<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the declaration ordered colonists to boycott British goods. Overall, there was support for boycotts throughout the colonies.

Officials from Bucks County partnered with neighboring Berks County to raise donations for colonists in Massachusetts. Bucks County officials also formed the Bucks County Committee of Safety, tasked with monitoring residents and merchants of the county to ensure they followed orders of the boycott. Beginning in late 1774 the Bucks County Committee of Safety began to meet and discuss present issues in the community. During a meeting on June 12, 1775, member

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<sup>30</sup> Aaron Sullivan, *The Disaffected: Britain's Occupation of Philadelphia During the American Revolution*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, Inc., 2019) 7.

<sup>31</sup> British Parliament, “Coercive Acts,” (1774).

<sup>32</sup> The First Continental Congress, *The Declaration of Rights and Grievances*, October 1774, <https://www.usconstitution.net>.

Joseph Hart was “appointed to publish an advertisement, notifying the officers of the different associated Companys to meet at the house of John Bogart the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July.”<sup>33</sup> For the next year, members of the Committee held their meetings at Bogart’s Tavern.

On July 2, 1776, just months after the First Continental Congress and members of the Committee of Safety responded to the Intolerable Acts, the Continental Congress had eventually voted to declare independence from Great Britain. Two days after the vote, the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed by Congress members. Although the vote for independence did not occur until July, the war for independence had begun months before. On April 19, 1775, militiamen or “Minutemen” clashed with redcoats during the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

A year later, General George Washington faced British General William Howe in New York. By mid-November Washington’s troops had been completely pushed out of New York to the south. As the winter months approached, most British troops returned to New York, while their Hessian troops remained in New Jersey. Later, Howe sent British troops under the command of Charles Cornwallis across the Hudson River from New York into New Jersey, chasing Washington’s troops out of New Jersey. By this time, Washington’s men began to feel the defeat of their losses in New York.<sup>34</sup>

With his numbers dwindling, Washington and his men crossed into Pennsylvania via the Delaware River, just north of Trenton, New Jersey. Cornwallis refrained from chasing Washington’s army and instead set up camp to being preparing for the following campaign

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<sup>33</sup> John Nixon, John Kidd, John Cox, Joseph McIlvain, James Benzet, Harvey Thomas, “Minutes of the Committee of Safety of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1774-1776,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 15, no. 3, (1891): 262.

<sup>34</sup> David McCullough, *1776*, (New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2005), 180.

seasons. When Washington's army crossed the river, the army of between four and six thousand men set up camp in Bucks County. Nearly two thousand of his men needed medical attention and were unfit for duty. After facing many hardships over the previous months, Washington and his army lacked both necessary supplies and morale. Washington ordered Generals Horatio Gates and Charles Lee to bring their troops to join Washington's as reinforcements.

Since his arrival in Pennsylvania, General Washington had been contemplating a move of considerable size. After suffering many defeats in the month before, he believed the time was right for action. The Keith House, located in Upper Makefield, Bucks County, served as Washington's headquarters for the ten days between December 14-24 that he spent in Bucks County. His headquarters was situated approximately five miles west of his army which was stationed along the Delaware River. After reinforcements arrived to join his men, Washington began to plan his next move. Washington met with his aids met at the Keith House to strategize possible attacks. Ultimately, Washington's plan involved three separate crossings to take place before dawn on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Washington planned to lead the largest contingent of troops in the attack on a garrison of Hessian mercenaries in Trenton.<sup>35</sup>

Shortly after Washington moved his headquarters to Bucks County, he met with one of his most trusted officers, General Nathanael Greene. Greene utilized Bogart's Tavern as his headquarters prior to Washington's attack. On December 19, 1776, from Bogart's Tavern, Greene wrote:

Sir,

I am directed by his Excellency General Washington to desire you to send down to Meconkea ferry [McConkey's Ferry], sixteen Durham Boats & four flats. Youl send them

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<sup>35</sup> McCollough, 1776, 273.

down as soon as possible. Send them under the care and direction of some good faithful Officer. I am Sir your most obedient & very humble Servant.

Nathanael Greene<sup>36</sup>

The intended recipient is not mentioned in Greene's letter, though historians undoubtedly assume it was General James Ewing, who was ordered to command militia men along the upper Delaware River in a letter from Washington on December 12<sup>th</sup>. After receiving the orders in Greene's letter, Ewing gathered boats and brought them to McConkey's Ferry. This enabled Washington's crossing on Christmas morning 1776, known today as Washington Crossing the Delaware.

## **II. Prominent Owners**

In the year following Washington's Crossing of the Delaware, the ownership of Bogart's Tavern was transferred to William Bennett. Subsequently, Bogart's Tavern would know many landlords and names in the following decades. By 1814, Colonel Elisha Wilkinson of Wrightstown, Pennsylvania, owned the property. He is perhaps one of the building's most colorful owners. During his early life he was associated with the Thirty-first Pennsylvania Regiment, serving as lieutenant-colonel for several years. Wilkinson also served as Bucks County's sheriff from 1809-1811. Many remembered him "as a man of fine appearance and a great horseman."<sup>37</sup> After introducing the fine breed of Arabian horses to Bucks County, he maintained a track near the tavern where he bred and raced his horses. Wilkinson and his family operated the tavern, known then as the Centreville Inn until his death in 1846, one of the longest ownerships in the building's history.

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<sup>36</sup> Richard K Showman, Margaret Cobb, and Robert E McCarthy, eds., *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, vol. 1 (Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society), 172.

<sup>37</sup> "Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania," Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Editor, John W. Jordan, LL.D., Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume II (1911).

In 1863 ownership was passed to another prominent owner, Peter L. Righter. Under his management the Centreville Inn was renamed the Buckingham Hotel, with the official establishment of the Buckingham Township post office in 1872.<sup>38</sup> In the early 1870s the Righter family began remodeling the original structure of the building. One of the most significant changes made was to the roof, which was replaced with a slate mansard roof. Mansard roofs gained popularity in the 1850s and continued into the 70s. The steep sides of a mansard roof increase the amount of living space in the attic. Following Righter's death in October 1991, ownership was transferred to his son John R. Righter who owned the property from October 1891- April 1907. The final member of the Righter family to own the property was John R. Ely, the grandson of Peter L. Righter, from 1907-1909. Though no prominent changes were made during John Righter's ownership, it is noteworthy that the property stayed in the Righter family for forty-six years.

After the conclusion of ownership by the Righter family, the subsequent owner was Harvey K. Crouthamel, who obtained the property in 1909. In 1913, during Crouthamel's ownership, the rich historical significance of the building was discovered by a local historian, and the Buckingham Hotel was then renamed The General Greene Inn. It is unclear how long Crouthamel owned the building before ownership was passed to George Joos and his wife Minnie. Census records reveal that in 1920, Joos and his family lived in Philadelphia and moved to Bucks County by 1930, as revealed in the census. By 1940, the Joos family owned and operated the General Greene Inn. Census records list George as "Hotel Manager" and Minnie as

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<sup>38</sup> Sara Maynard Clark, "Crossroads Buckingham," *Bucks County Traveler*, March 1958.

“Proprietor.”<sup>39</sup> While her parents operated the hotel, their daughter Edna Wehmeyer managed “Edna’s Antique Shop” out of a different portion of the building.

After George passed in 1966, his family was left to operate the Inn on their own. When Lois Wehmeyer was asked in an interview to speak on the closing of the Inn, she explained:

At [the time of George’s death] or maybe a couple years after that, maybe about 1967, that they stopped having tourists. It was just too much and then the inn closed in 1969. My father became ill and my mother just couldn’t handle it. I was out of the country at the time. I was in for the summer and suggested that my mother close it. She had her antique business, and she was cooking and trying to do it all.<sup>40</sup>

Once the Inn closed its doors to the public, Edna continued to operate Edna’s antique shop from a part of the building unused by the Inn. Lois and her husband eventually moved onto the property and helped take over Edna’s Antique Shop.

### **III. Historical Marker Program**

In 2002, the Buckingham Township Office began working with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to apply for inclusion in the Historical Marker Program. When approved and dedicated, this marker would become the first in Buckingham Township. According to Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township’s Special Project Manager, “Many hours of research and discussion were needed to determine the name and the message,” that would be displayed on the marker.<sup>41</sup> The intent of the marker was to recognize the significant role the inn

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<sup>39</sup> United States Census Bureau, United States Census, 1940, Buckingham Township, 3A.

<sup>40</sup> Lois Wehmeyer Meyer, interview by Nancy Yerkes, June 7, 2002, transcript, Buckingham Township Oral History Interview, 6-10-240, 3.

<sup>41</sup> Dana Cozza, Special Projects Manager, Buckingham Township, letter to Lois Meyer, November 4, 2002, Historic File 6-10-240.

played in the American Revolution, having been the headquarters for General Nathanael Greene prior to Washington's Crossing of the Delaware.

After many months of planning, approval was received for a marker titled "Bogart's Tavern." Township staff reached out to owner Lois Meyer to relay their exciting news. Unfortunately, they were confronted by a very upset Meyer, who felt she was left out of the planning and decision-making process. Meyer responded to the Township in the form of a letter:

Gentleman:

I am concerned about the omission of the General Greene Inn from the wording on the historical marker that you plan to place in front of my building. The marker makes no mention of The General Greene Inn, but only notes Bogart's Tavern as General Greene's headquarters. For the past one hundred years the inn has been known as the General Greene Inn in honor of General Nathanael Greene... Basically you have taken the liberty of renaming the inn on the historical marker while not having the right of ownership of the inn, nor have you at any time in the past spoken to me of your intentions. Does this action of "We know better than you what is good for your property and we will undertake to do what we, The Historical Commission directed by the Township Supervisors think best," smack of socialism?<sup>42</sup>

Meyer continued to describe through personal anecdotes, the rich history of The General Greene Inn. She urges Township staff to change the suggested wording for the marker to:

The General Greene Inn

Bogart's Tavern of 1776

General Nathanael Greene's Headquarters<sup>43</sup>

Her argument proposed the idea that "the history of the inn did not stop with Bogart in 1777 but continued on."<sup>44</sup>

After the township staff received Meyer's letter, it became apparent that she may have had a valid point regarding the wording on the marker. It was mentioned in a correspondence

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<sup>42</sup> Lois A. W. Meyer, letter to Buckingham Township Supervisors, November 14, 2002, Historic File 6-10-240.

<sup>43</sup> Meyer, to Buckingham Township Supervisors.

<sup>44</sup> Meyer, to Buckingham Township Supervisors.

between township staff members, “While she has a valid argument, I only wish her interest extended to the deplorable condition which she maintains. I didn’t realize that not so long ago it was a thriving business.”<sup>45</sup> This comment made by Ray Stepnoski suggested that had Meyer felt the same zeal towards the condition of the property as she did the historical marker, that the history of the building may be more well known.

Despite having already purchased the marker for \$750, township staff apologized to Meyer for not consulting her before they began the application process. Janet D. French, Buckingham Township Supervisor responded to Meyer and explained,

It is not the later history of the inn that is the subject matter of the marker, but that tumultuous period that led to Greene’s residence at the inn...It is as Bogart’s Tavern, therefore, that the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission approved the marker and that approval is extremely hard to come by.<sup>46</sup>

Eventually, a compromise was suggested that entailed a separate sign to be erected on the side of the building recognizing it as The General Greene Inn. Staff hoped that this sign in conjunction with the marker would give readers an understanding of the building’s name (Fig 3 & 4).

Once an agreement was reached between Meyers and the township staff, planning for the marker’s installation continued. Township officials contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), to discuss suitable locations for the placement of the marker. The original idea was to place the marker in between the trees on the Meyer’s property. After township staff met with a representative from PHMC and Mr. and Mrs. Meyers to survey the area, they noticed a flaw in the original plan for placement. When they noticed

the tracks from the trucks that make deliveries, [they] had a big concern that a truck would clip the sign. Having little other choices, the PennDOT rep said [they] could move

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<sup>45</sup> Ray Stepnoski, email to Anne Marie Lusen, November 20, 2002, Historic File 6-10-240.

<sup>46</sup> Janet D. French, Supervisor, Buckingham Township, letter to Lois A. W. Meyer, December 6, 2002, Historic File 6-10-240.

the “right lane ends here” sign to the traffic light post and use that location as a spot for the Historic Marker.

When the location was approved by PennDOT, the 44” wide x 46” tall, sign was set to be erected on a 7’ post with an additional 3’ sunk in a concrete base in the ground.

On June 25, 2003, township staff member Lori Orton sent a press release to several local radio stations and newspapers including *The Intelligencer*, *The New Hope Gazette*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Bucks County Courier Times*. Orton urged these media outlets to publish the press release as soon as possible and encouraged them to “feel free to send a reporter to the event!! It’s sure to be very picturesque.”<sup>47</sup> The unveiling ceremony was scheduled on June 28, 2003 at 9:00 located outside of the General Greene Inn. Township staff members, representatives from the PHMC, and locals gathered for the ceremony that day followed by a reception at the Buckingham Township Building.

#### **IV. Historical Resources**

Another key component to include when applying for the inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is a survey of the property. The NPS defines a survey as “a process of identifying and gathering data on a community’s historical resources.”<sup>48</sup> When identifying a historic resource, surveyors look to guidelines set forth by the National Preservation Act which defines a resource as:

any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register (of Historic Places); such term includes

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<sup>47</sup> Lori Orton, fax to Mark Jolly, *The Intelligencer*; Helen Gibbs, *The New Hope Gazette*; *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; *Bucks County Courier Times*; KWW News; WPVI Channel 6; WCAU TV Channel 10; Channel 17, June 25, 2003.

<sup>48</sup> “National Register Bulletin: Technical Information on Comprehensive Planning, Survey of Cultural Resources, and Registration in the National Register of Historic Places,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Department, 1.

artifacts, records, and remains which are related to such a district, site, building , structure, or object.<sup>49</sup>

Evaluating a community's historic resources is a vital part of increasing cultural recognition on all levels. When resources are deemed historically significant, they can “be retained as functional parts of modern life.”<sup>50</sup> Often time researchers look towards historic resources to provide insight on the history of a community.

In April 1991, architectural historian, Robert W. Reynolds, from the Bucks County Conservancy, surveyed The General Greene Inn. The survey includes three historical resources as part of the property. They are listed as: tavern, bank barn, and shed. Although three resources are mentioned, architectural information is only provided for the tavern given its historical significance. Reynolds listed the architectural classification of the tavern as Second Empire. It is probable that the original structure of the building resembled a farmhouse, until the mansard roof was added by the Righter family in the 1870s. The Second Empire style is sometimes referred to as the French Second Empire style or Mansard style. It originated in France during the reign of Napoleon III (1852-1870), or France's Second Empire. After the style spread to England, it quickly spread throughout the northeastern United States in the 1860s and 70s.<sup>51</sup> The most notable feature of Second Empire architecture is a slate mansard roof, named for French architect Francois Mansart. Mansard roofs were both fashionable and functional, leading to their widespread popularity (Fig. 5).

The surveyor detailed the materials used in building the exterior of the building. Both the foundation and exterior walls are recorded as stone, though the original walls were covered with

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<sup>49</sup> “National Register Bulletin,” 1.

<sup>50</sup> “National Register Bulletin,” 11.

<sup>51</sup> Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, “Second Empire/Mansard Style, 1860-1900,” last modified on August 26, 2015, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/second-empire.html>.

stucco, a sort of plaster. The mansard roof was constructed and covered in slate, a key feature in the building's Second Empire classification. Architects record the width of buildings in terms of bays, or large internal spaces between distinguished structural elements. In the case of The General Greene Inn, the width of the building is described as six bays, while its depth is two rooms, and height is two- and one-half stories. When the surveyor reported on the structure of the building, classifications were based off the present-day appearance.

Closer examination based on deed research provided more detailed information regarding additions made to the building since the time of its construction. The survey divides the building into four sections for examination: "Section 1: 1720-1730, Section 2: 1870-1872, Section 3: 1870-1930 with portions dating to original, Section 4: 1870-1910."<sup>52</sup> As demonstrated in Fig. 6, each section of the sketch corresponds with the estimated period of construction.

## **Moving Forward**

### **I. Guidelines Outlined by The National Park Service**

Today, the future of the General Greene Inn remains unknown. To decide the appropriate plan of action for the future of the General Greene Inn, community members may look to guidelines for historic properties, outlined by the NPS. The NPS suggests, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction as some of the appropriate treatments of historic buildings or landscapes. There are many factors to consider when choosing the best choice for the building, "including the property's historical significance, physical condition, proposed use,

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<sup>52</sup> Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Office of Historic Preservation, *Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey Form*, 1991, 1.

and intended interpretation.”<sup>53</sup> This section will explore possible outcomes for The General Greene Inn.

Reconstruction of a historic building focusses on rebuilding portions of the structure that have vanished or are non-surviving. If documentation which depicts the previous state of the building is available, reconstruction of those parts may enable better public understanding of the building. Reconstruction aims to recreate non-surviving historic features and elements by utilizing the same “materials, design, color, and texture.”<sup>54</sup> If reconstruction is chosen as the best appropriate action for a historic building, it must clearly be defined as a re-creation. This is done to eliminate confusion for visitors who may fail to recognize that a structure has been recreated.

The NPS also suggests restoration as a possible plan of action for historic buildings. Unlike reconstruction which aims at recreating well documented portions of a structure, restoration focuses on surviving elements. Deteriorated features of the building will be repaired, rather than replaced; doing this seeks to maintain existing historical elements of the structure. Guidelines provided by the NPS clearly states “the removal of materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize the period will not be undertaken.”<sup>55</sup> It is crucial when electing restoration that creating a false sense of history is avoided. One alternative to restoration is rehabilitation. While both seek to highlight historic features of a building, rehabilitation utilizes preexisting structures by adding to them, rather than changing the overall appearance of the building.

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<sup>53</sup> “Four Approaches to the Treatment of Historic Properties,” Technical Preservation Services (National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior), <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments.htm>.

<sup>54</sup> “Reconstruction,” Technical Preservation Services (National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior), <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-reconstruction.htm>.

<sup>55</sup> “Restoration as a Treatment,” Technical Preservation Services (National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior), <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-restoration.htm>.

The final suggestion offered by the NPS is preservation. Preservation aims to protect historic buildings through “retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.”<sup>56</sup> Usage of the property may change overtime to fit the existing structure of the building. Given the historical significance of The General Greene Inn during the Revolutionary War, preservation of the current structure is crucial in maintaining the rich history of the building for public enjoyment.

Lois Meyer and her mother Edna wrote to Buckingham Township in 2005 regarding the future of The General Greene Inn:

As best we can determine there is no prohibition whatsoever about demolishing the inn should a future owner of the property wish to do so in their development plans. Our personal feelings are the inn should be restored and be an important part of the township.<sup>57</sup>

This letter makes it abundantly clear that the owners wish to incorporate the history of The General Greene Inn in their community. Though they suggested restoration as a means of action, there is not currently enough documentation on the original structure of the building to justify restoration.

It is a great honor that Buckingham Township Officials and the PHMC recognized the historic significance of The General Greene Inn and sought to commemorate that with a blue historical marker. It remains unknown what may be preventing this building from inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is possible that the elderly Meyers, now eighty-seven, is unable to complete the process on her own. Or perhaps the township is unwilling to work with

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<sup>56</sup> “Preservation as a Treatment,” Technical Preservation Services (National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior), <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-preservation.htm>.

<sup>57</sup> Carl LaVo, “How a Buckingham Inn Played a Role in the American Revolution,” *Bucks County Courier Times*, March 2020.

Meyers given her hesitations regarding the historical marker program. Although inclusion on the National Register does not protect the structure from demolition, as Meyers feared, perhaps it would aid in gaining local support for the preservation efforts Meyers desired. Examining the experiences of preserving other historic buildings in Bucks County offers insight to those interested in preserving The General Greene Inn.

## **II. Historic Properties in Bucks County**

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is full of history relating to the American Revolution. There are currently 162 properties in Bucks County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of these properties is Keith House, recognized for its significance during Washington's Crossing of the Delaware and The Battle of Trenton. Keith House, also referred to as Washington's Headquarters, or Headquarters Farm, was added to the National Register in 1978.

According to the "Statement of Significance," included in the application for the National Register, the Keith Farm was originally comprised of 230 in the Manor of Highlands, one of William Penn's four manors. Unlike most families in the area who were Quakers, the Keith Family, who acquired the land in 1761, were Presbyterians. The Keith Family sympathized with the War for Independence, "since Quaker beliefs included such concepts as pacifism."<sup>58</sup> When Washington crossed the Delaware River and into Bucks County, Keith House served as his headquarters from December 14-24, 1776, before crossing the Delaware on Christmas Day. It also served as a meeting place for Washington and his aids on Christmas Eve, where he revealed plans for his attack on the Hessians in Trenton.

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<sup>58</sup> J. Frost, *The Quaker Family in Colonial America*, 1973, 1, [https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=F4JhBQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR1&dq=quaker+beliefs&ots=G\\_xli9urdA&sig=M5gsSt\\_eUbaldzIAVsEmIEs-H2E#v=snippet&q=pacifist&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=F4JhBQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR1&dq=quaker+beliefs&ots=G_xli9urdA&sig=M5gsSt_eUbaldzIAVsEmIEs-H2E#v=snippet&q=pacifist&f=false).

The Keith House is described as architecturally significant because it is an “example of eighteenth-century stone construction with additions. The evolution of the house and farm can be studied in the construction of later wings.”<sup>59</sup> Much like The General Greene Inn, the original structure of the building remains, though additions were made to it over time. The most. The most recent changes made to the original house were done between 1933-1946, when the dormers and porch were removed. According to the architectural surveyor of the property, “During that post-depression period many properties in this area were improved and renovated.”<sup>60</sup>

Another building which offers historical significance during the Revolutionary War is the Samuel Merrick House, built in 1773, is also located in Upper Makefield Township. Following General Greene’s stay at Bogart’s Tavern in Buckingham, he moved his headquarters to the Merrick House, as it was situated just over a mile from Washington’s headquarters at the Keith House. It is believed that The Merrick House served as a final meeting place for Washington and his aids before crossing the Delaware. The Merrick House does not have a historical marker, nor recognition on the National Register for its significance leading to the Battle of Trenton.

In early 2020, The Samuel Merrick house was listed for sale at just over one million dollars. A two-story addition connects to the original home, expanding the living space. Currently the house is not open to the public, as it is used as a residential property. Unlike the Keith House, the Merrick House is not recognized for its historical significance by Upper Makefield Township’s

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<sup>59</sup> "Pennsylvania SP Keith House—Washington's Headquarters," United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, November 14, 1978, 2.

<sup>60</sup> "Pennsylvania SP Keith House—Washington's Headquarters," 6.

website. It does not appear that there is much public interest in the history of the building, though it is not well advertised.

Both the General Greene Inn and the Merrick House served as headquarters to General Nathanael Greene during the time he spent in Bucks County. One may argue that given the order in which Greene stayed at these properties, one deserves more recognition than the other. General Greene wrote to General Ewing requesting boats be brought to McConkey's Ferry six days before the crossing would take place. Shortly after sending this letter, General Greene moved his headquarters to the Merrick House and remained there until the crossing. This raises an important question regarding the criteria used to justify preserving buildings.

### **III. The Patterson Farm**

The Patterson Farm, located in Lower Makefield, Pennsylvania, has a rich history that locals wish to restore and preserve. The Township of Lower Makefield acquired the Patterson Farm in 1998. In 2015 the Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. was established by community members hoping to restore the farm, which had "fallen into neglectful disrepair."<sup>61</sup> Patterson Farm Inc. is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization. The organization has described the history of the building as such:

In the year 1683, Quaker immigrant Thomas Janney, William Penn's Provincial Counsilar, settled Patterson Farm. Over three centuries of American history and agriculture have taken place there, from the Lenni Lenape Native Americans to modern day farming. We must not allow this important historic site and agricultural asset to be lost to the ravages of time and apathy.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> "Patterson Farm Matters! Sign to Support Preservation of Cultural History," change.org (Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. 501c3), <https://www.change.org/p/support-restoration-of-patterson-farm-founded-in-1683>.

<sup>62</sup> "Patterson Farm Matters! Sign to Support Preservation of Cultural History."

Patterson Farm Preservation Inc.'s "mission is the perpetual preservation and responsible management of Patterson Farm... farms compelling history, rich natural resources and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places make it an irreplaceable Pennsylvania landmark."<sup>63</sup> With their mission in mind, the organization has created a website dedicated to the preservation efforts for the Patterson Farm. One page on the website titled "Neglected Treasure: Years of Neglect by Lower Makefield Township Have Taken A Harsh Toll on Patterson Farm's Historic Beauty. Restoration Cannot Wait," contains images that demonstrate the rundown condition of the property.<sup>64</sup>

In 2007 a soil sample was taken from Patterson Farm and sent to the Agricultural Analytical Service Laboratory at Penn State University for analysis. The main purpose of this analysis was:

1. To determine the current levels of important soil nutrients, Ph and organic matter.
2. To determine which soil amendments should be applied to [that] year's crops.

The results of the analysis determined that "The Patterson Farm has excellent soils. According to the United States Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey, 83% of the farm consists of Prime agricultural soils. The other 17% are soils of statewide importance."<sup>65</sup> The documentation of the rich soil on this property proved beneficial to the Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. when justifying the farm's preservation.

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<sup>63</sup> "About Us," Patterson Farm Preservation Inc., 501c3 Nonprofit Org. (Patterson Farm Preservation Inc.), <https://pattersonfarmpreservation.com/about-us>.

<sup>64</sup> "Years of Neglect by Lower Makefield Township Have Taken A Harsh Toll on The Patterson Farm's Historic Beauty. Restoration Cannot Wait., ("Neglected Treasure" (Patterson Farm Preservation Inc.), <https://pattersonfarmpreservation.com/neglected-treasure>.

<sup>65</sup> Penn State U.S. Department of Agriculture letter to James C. Coyne, Sr, <https://pattersonfarmpreservation.com/superior-soil>.

After determining the historical and agricultural significance of the Patterson Farm, the Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. sought out ways to restore the farm. A two-minute documentary trailer posted on the organization's website features board members and community members sharing the importance of Patterson Farm to Bucks County's agriculture. The organization has also created a "Petition for Preservation," through Change.org. With almost 5,000 signatures, the petition aims to tell "Lower Makefield officials that Patterson Farm and preservation of history MATTER!"<sup>66</sup> The Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. offers great insight to the possibilities for the future of the General Greene Inn.

#### **IV. The Future of The General Greene Inn**

Utilizing the same strategy as Patterson Farm Preservation Inc. the first step in preserving the General Greene Inn is establishing a named organization. For this essay, the proposed organization will be named "The General Greene Inn Preservation Partners." To express the goals of The General Greene Inn Preservation Partners, the group will utilize this mission statement, "The General Greene Inn Preservation Partners are dedicated to preserving the history of the General Greene Inn and making it accessible to community members of Bucks County, Pennsylvania." In addition, applying for 501(c)(3) recognition would exempt this organization from paying taxes on any funds they acquire. Creating a petition utilizing change.org, or a similar platform could help gauge the community's interest in preserving the General Greene Inn. The petition would include the historical significance of the building, as previously stated in this essay, as well as a vision plan for the future of the property.

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<sup>66</sup> "Patterson Farm, Bucks County, PA. Settled in 1683 by Thomas Janney, Member of William Penn's Provincial Council," Home (Patterson Farm Preservation Inc.), <https://pattersonfarmpreservation.com/home-1>.

Given Buckingham Township's previous interest in the building when applying for the Historical Marker Program, this author believes they would offer support moving forward. This author's paternal grandmother is the first cousin once removed of Meyers, the owner of the General Greene Inn. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and Mrs. Meyers's age have proven to be great hurdles in contacting her. If a future attempt to contact Mrs. Meyers proves successful in the future, this author would present a proposed plan for preservation. As previously mentioned, Mrs. Meyers was unwilling to accept any offers on her property if it did not include a plan for preservation.

In addition to the establishment of a 501(c)(3) certified organization, this author believes the General Greene Inn should be part of the story told at Washington Crossing Historic Park, located in Bucks County. The General Greene Inn, Keith House, and the Samuel Merrick House each played a crucial role in Washington's Delaware crossing and the Trenton campaign. One way to highlight the untold histories of these buildings is to partner with Washington Crossing Historic Park to create a self-guided audio tour of Bucks County. After downloading the application onto their mobile devices, listeners would be able to follow a map to different locations in Bucks County that played key roles in Washington's crossing. These locations would include the General Greene Inn, Keith House, and Samuel Merrick House, as well as buildings recognized under Washington Crossing Historic Park such as McConkey's Ferry and the Thompson-Neeley House.

Of the buildings included in this tour, the General Greene Inn appears the most rundown. In addition to preserving the history, it is also important to preserve the physical property itself. The PHMC offers a variety of grants for planning projects. Applicants must be representing a nonprofit organization, or a local government and the structure in question must be eligible for or

listed on the National Register. The goal of the “grant is to support projects that identify, preserve, promote and protect historic and archaeological resources of Pennsylvania for both the benefit of the public and the revitalization of communities.”<sup>67</sup>

The PHMC requires a 50/50 cash match for all funding requests. Awards range from a minimum of \$5,000-\$25,000. In addition to a revenue stream gained from the creation of a self-guided tour, the General Greene Inn Preservation Partners will also utilize a crowdfunding platform to raise funds. Ideally, with enough funds, the organization, in conjunction with the township, could match a grant from the PHMC and gain support from Mrs. Meyers to preserve the General Greene Inn.

## **Conclusion**

After closely examining developments of historic preservation both nationally and within the state of Pennsylvania, it is evident The General Greene Inn should be preserved. The structure which dates to as early as 1752 has undergone many changes and currently lacks the necessary care to protect its character. The General Greene Inn has stood through momentous events before and during the War for American Independence. Between serving as a meeting place for the Bucks County Committee of Safety, and later headquarters to renowned General Nathanael Greene, this inn was a witness to the making of a nation. The unique architecture provides a compelling sight for community members who pass by. Utilizing guidelines offered by The U.S. Department of the Interior, a plan for this building’s preservation should be created. With support from the Buckingham Township community and other members of Bucks County, the General Greene Inn will offer a great history for generations to come.

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<sup>67</sup> “Keystone Historic Preservation Planning Grants,” PHMC, <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding/Pages/Planning-Projects.aspx>

**Figure 1:** “The General Greene Inn,” Caroline Jeranek, September 2020.



**Figure 2:** “List of Counties in Pennsylvania,” Wikipedia.



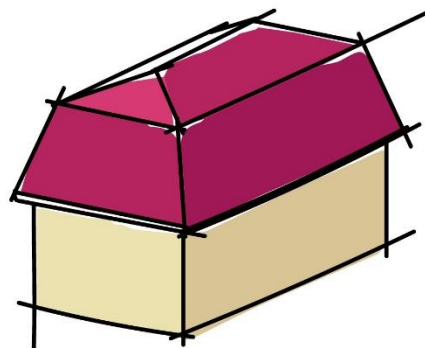
**Figure 3:** “Bogart’s Tavern Historical Marker,” Caroline Jeranek, July 2020.



**Figure 4:** “General Greene Inn Signage,” Caroline Jeranek, September 2020.

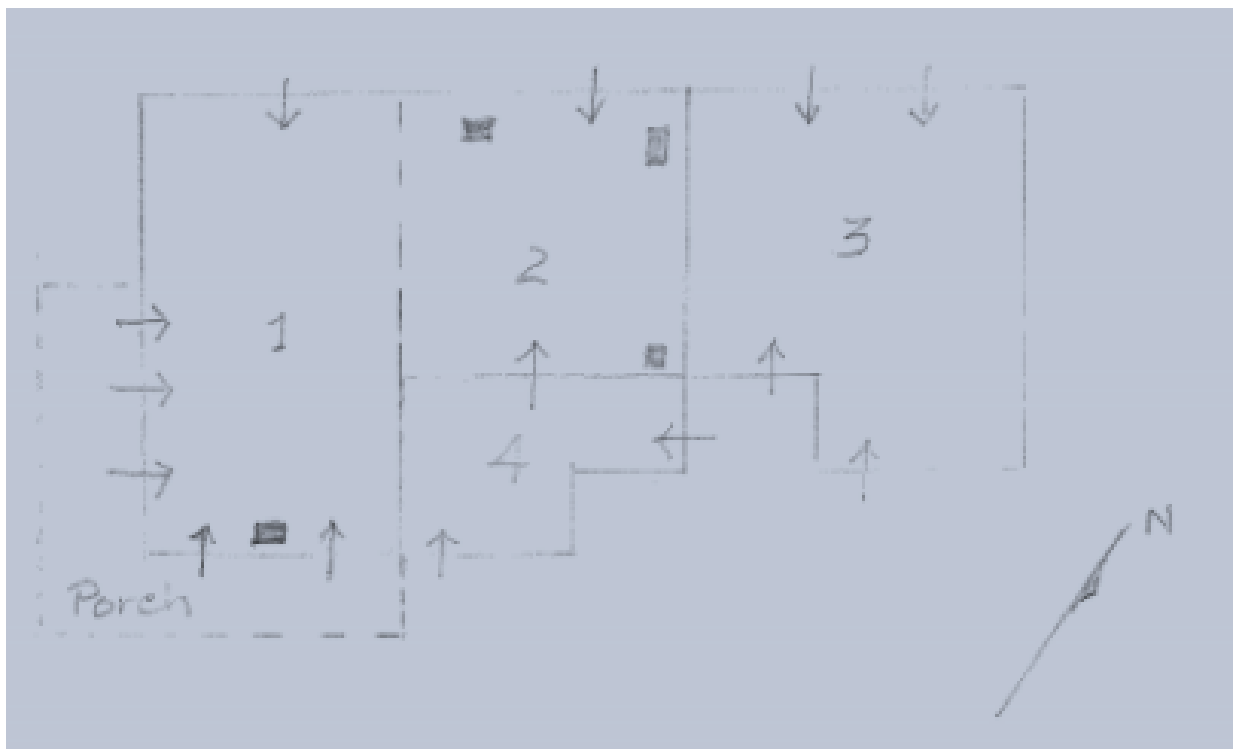


**Figure 5:** “Mansard Roof,” architecturelab.net.



MANSARD

**Figure 6:** “Survey of the General Greene Inn,” Steven Berger, 1991.



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