

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New York</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Westchester</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>OCT 2 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Bedford Village Historic District**

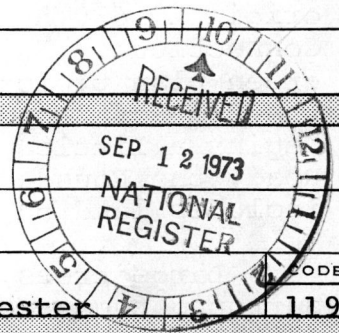
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**See Description**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Bedford**

STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**      COUNTY: **Westchester**      CODE: **119**



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>graveyard</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Various**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Bedford**      STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Bedford Town House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bedford Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bedford Hills**      STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New York State Historic Trust Historic Resources Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**New York State Division for Historic Preservation**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Parks and Recreation, South Mall, S. Swan Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Albany**      STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**

Congressional District: 25 Representative: Hamilton Fish, Jr.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New York**  
COUNTY: **Westchester**  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE: **OCT 2 1973**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Westchester County near the Connecticut border, the Bedford Village Historic District embraces most of the original 1680 hamlet founded by settlers from the Colony of Connecticut. The village was laid out according to the village green plan typical of New England settlements. Lying at a bend in the Old Post Road (New York Route 22), the present district begins a little west of the green and is bounded by the Old Post Road, the Pound Ridge Road, Seminary Road and Court Road, and includes land on both sides of these thoroughfares.

Large trees, primarily maples, line Pound Ridge Road and surround the green, the village's focal element. On a hillside north of the green is the Old Burying Ground, flanked by an 1806 church (now Historical Hall) and a small "General Store" (ca. 1838, now office space). To the east of the green is a short block of public and commercial buildings, dominated by the Court House (1787) and the Presbyterian Church (1872). Between Pound Ridge Road and Court Road is a meadow and a small lake, fed by a stream known in the colonial period as Whipping Post Brook.

South of the green and along Pound Ridge Road are several late 18th and mid-19th century residences, all on large lots. Stylistically these reflect the changing architectural tastes of the 19th century, either by their original form or by subsequent alterations. The few modern structures were designed in a basically neo-colonial style. All the buildings in the district are of frame construction except the stone Catholic Church (1928) and School House (1829) on the green, the brick fire house and a few brick commercial structures.

Court House (1787):

Restored 1965-1970 by the Bedford Historical Society and utilized as a museum, the wood frame Court House, sheathed by shingles stands 2 1/2 stories high and covered by a gambrel roof. A square cupola surmounts the structure and a one-story porch (ca. 1830's) extends the length of the west elevation. Renovations of 1889 altered windows and other features which have been returned to their earlier appearance.

Historical Hall (1806):

Originally a church, this edifice was moved to its present site in 1837. A three bay by five bay, two-story structure, the Hall is distinguished for its pedimented and pilastered gable end. Within, a balcony, supported by simple, square Doric columns and enclosed by paneling, extends the length of three walls.

Library (1807):

The five bay west elevation of the shingled, wood frame library fronts on the village green. The entrance in the central bay is sheltered by a one bay porch defined by two simplified Doric columns. A large square cupola surmounts the gable roof.

See continuation sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE New York	
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7. Description (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

School House (1829):

A small one-story stone ediface, crowned by a small belfrey, the School House has been refitted with 19th century schoolroom finishings.

Post Office (c. 1838):

A small, two-story structure in the Greek Revival style, the Post Office is noted for its projecting classical pediment supported by two Doric columns.

Presbyterian Church (1872):

A substantial board and batten structure in the Gothic Revival style, the Church, too, overlooks the village green. Its main (west) elevation is composed of the structures' pointed gable-end flanked by a square tower and a taller octagonal tower, both terminating in slate-covered spires.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded in 1680 as a Connecticut settlement, Bedford Village, despite the modern development characteristic of much of Westchester County, has survived with its original village green intact and still bordered by vernacular architecture of the preceding two centuries. Encompassing the heart of the old village, the historic district is illustrative of Bedford's history and architectural development from the last quarter of the 18th through the third quarter of the 19th century when it functioned as the political hub of northern Westchester County and as the economic center for a thriving agricultural hinterland.

Originally a settlement of the colony of Connecticut, Bedford Village was laid out in 1681 with a town common, a village street, and three-acre house plots distributed by lot to the twenty-two original proprietors in accordance with the New England custom. Most of this area as well as part of the "East Field" which was originally farmed in common is included in the village district. The common survives today in the Green and Burying Ground; the meadowland near the school is part of the East Field; and "ye Street" of the 1680's is now the Pound Ridge Road, east side of the Green, and part of the Old Post Road.

A significant inland settlement during the 18th century, Bedford served as the Seat of Westchester County government during much of the Revolution. In 1779 the British burned the village center, necessitating a period of concentrated re-building. Two years after the fire, Rochambeau's troops rendezvoused on the Green during their march south to join Washington's forces.

Soon after the Revolution, through the efforts of John Jay, who resided nearby, the village became one of Westchester's two county seats, and it served as such until 1870. The Court House and five residences on or near the Green represent the re-building effort of the late 18th century. Structures such as Historical Hall (1806, Methodist Church), the Library (1807, Bedford Academy), the School House (1829), and the Post Office (c. 1838) reflect the prosperity of a thriving agricultural community serving as well as the political center for northern Westchester County. Construction in the 1840's of the New York and Harlem Railroad to the west diverted much subsequent development away

See continuation sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

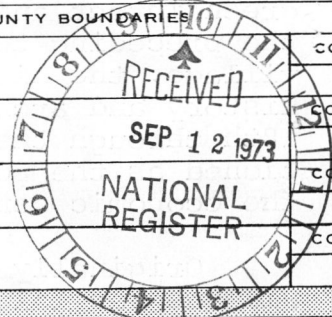
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 12' 28"	73° 38' 49"	0	0	0	
NE	41° 12' 28"	73° 38' 10"				
SE	41° 12' 7-00	73° 38' 10"				
SW	41° 12' 7-00	73° 38' 49"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **89 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Donald W. Marshall, Town Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Town of Bedford** DATE: **July 9, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Davids Hill Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bedford Hills** STATE: **New York** CODE: **36**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Phattis*

Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**

Date: 9/5/73

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

*Robert K. Utley*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/2/73

ATTEST: *Edna Stewart*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-1-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 NW 18/613610 / 4562486  
 SE 18/613610 / 4561920  
 SW 18/613610 / 4561810

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

STATE New York	
COUNTY Westchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 8	1973

(Continuation Sheet)

**8. Significance**

(Number all entries)

from the old village center. The Presbyterian Church and its Manse, bordering on the Green, were built during the third quarter of the 19th century while the village continued in its political capacity.

The railroad and the transfer of county government in 1870 combined after the third quarter of the 19th century to diminish the quantity of new construction, with the result that the character of old Bedford Village has endured. During the 20th century the community was a center for the owners of large country estates, and only within two past decades has it begun to feel the pressure of the more common types of suburban sprawl.

Still bordering on the Green are examples of vernacular architecture of the last quarter of the 18th up to the last quarter of the 19th century, executed with only a few exceptions in wood frame construction. The organizing element in the original village plan and in the present historic district, the Green provides a spacious setting or context for this assemblage of historic structures readily discernible as a district for the homogeneity of materials, scale, and proportion, and for the absence of incompatible 20th century elements. To promote the preservation of Bedford's 19th century visual environment the local government has recently imposed architectural controls by the establishment of an historic district.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Westchester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 2 1973

9. Major Bibliographical References  
(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

- Baird, Charles W. History of Bedford Church. New York, 1882.
- Barrett, Joseph. "Bedford." In: J. Thomas Scharf, ed., History of Westchester County, NY. Philadelphia, 1886, v. 2, pp. 574-608.
- Barrett, Robertson T. The Town of Bedford, a Commemorative History 1680-1955. Bedford, NY, 1955.
- Bedford, NY. Bedford Historical Records. Bedford Hills, NY., 1966-.  
6 v. V. 1, Minutes of Town Meetings 1680-1737; V. 2-4, Land Records 1680-1830; V. 5, Minutes of Town Meetings 1784-1841 (in preparation); V. 6, Minutes of Town Meetings, 1862-1899 (in preparation).
- Bedford Academy. History of Bedford Academy; prepared by...pupils. Mount Kisco, NY., 1877.
- Bedford Historical Society. A Short Historical Tour of the Town of Bedford. 2. ed. Bedford, NY., (1971).
- Bolton, Robert. The History of the Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester. Rev. ed. NY, 1881. 2 v.
- Bonsal, Stephen. When the French Were Here. Garden City, NY., 1945.
- Duncombe, Frances R. & others. Katonah: the History of a New York Village and its People. Katonah, NY., 1961.
- Hufeland, Otto. Westchester County during the American Revolution. White Plains, NY., 1926.
- Shonnard, Frederic and Spooner, W.W. History of Westchester County. New York, 1900.
- Spafford, Horatio Gates. Gazetteer of the State of New York. Albany, 1813.
- Wood, James. "Town of Bedford." In: Alvah P. French, ed., History of Westchester County. New York, 1925, v. 2, pp. 613-61.



PROPERTY Bedford Village Historic Dist. STATE N. Y.

73001285

WORKING NUMBER 9.12.73.3568

TECH REVIEW  
Photos 10  
Maps 2

Westchester

CONTROL REVIEW [Signature]

cm  
9-14-  
73

HISTORIAN

OK  
Accept  
9/14/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept  
9-14-73  
Shull

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept  
9/17/73  
Cath

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept  
9/18/73

KEEPER

Wm  
10/1

National Register write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register entry 11-6-73

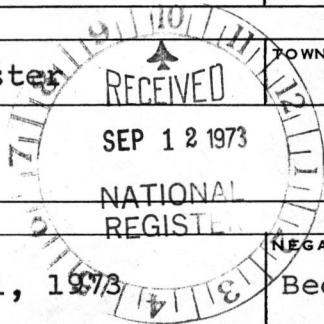
Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered OCT 2 1973

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON Bedford Village Historic District	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>  OCT 2 1973
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE New York	COUNTY Westchester	TOWN Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER Main Street		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT Donald W. Marshall	DATE April, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Bedford Historical Society



**4. IDENTIFICATION**  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

East side of Main Street facing Bedford Green. Left to right from large sycamore trees: Library (1807), Antique Shop (1906) and Post Office (c. 1838). Cupola of Bedford Court House (1787) at left above store buildings (1932 and 1904).



K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District

Photo #1

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District ①

Loc. Westchester Co., NY

(left to right) Library, Fire House,  
Antique Shop, Post Office, Pres. Church,  
Mause.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall photo



K 5

Bedford Village (N.Y.) Historic District  
photo # 2

NPS Number

Oct 2, 1993

(2)

Title:

Bedford Village

Historic District

Loc.

Westchester Co., NY

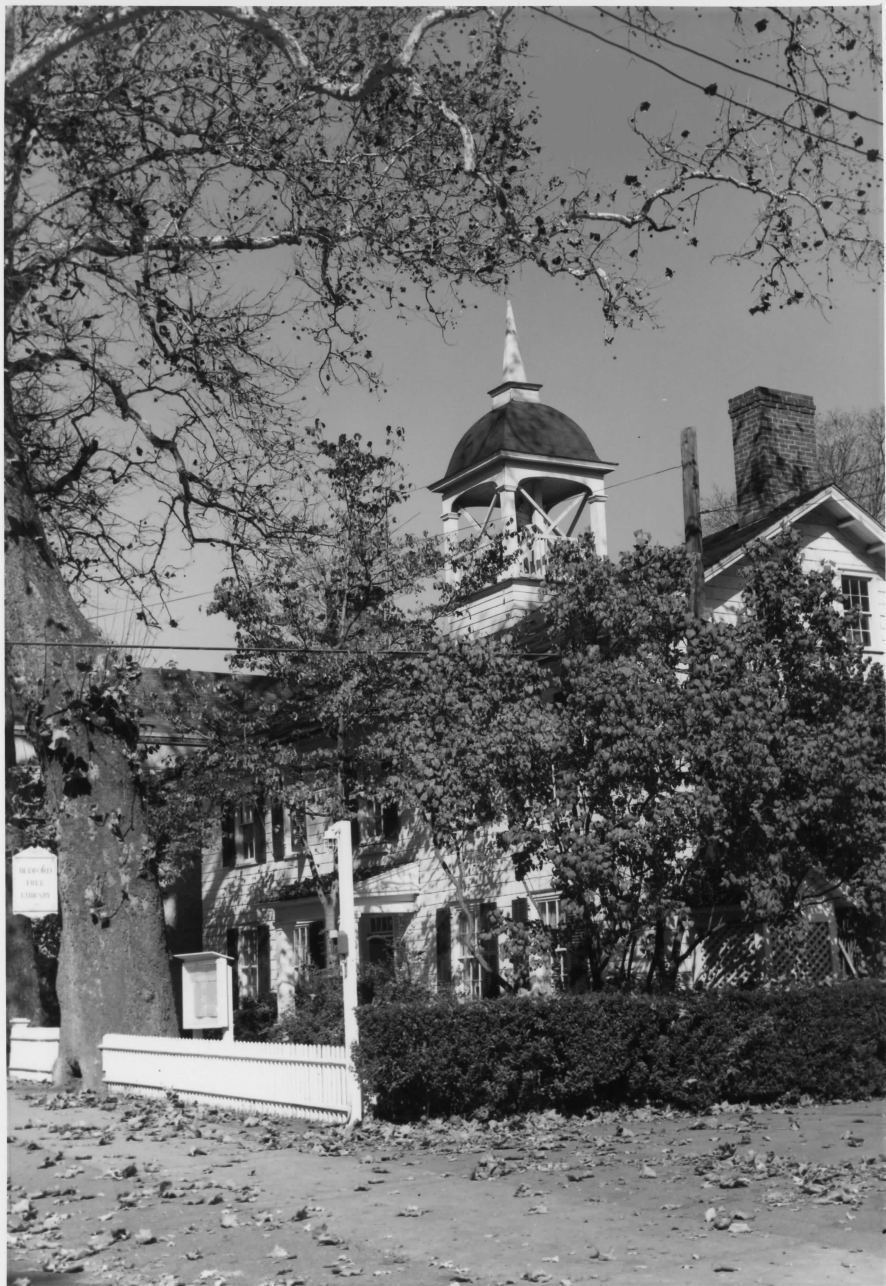
Bedford Court House

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian

Donald W. Marshall photo



Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo #3

Acq. number Oct 2, 1973  
Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District  
Loc. Westchester Co., NY  
Library

(3)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

B 4410



K 5 c.

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District

photo # 4

(4)

NPS Number Oct 2, 1943

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. West Chester Co., NY  
Historic Hall, Bedford Green,  
and old Burying ground

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian

Donald W. Marshall photo



K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo # 5

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. Westchester Co., NY  
Old Burying Ground General  
Store, Bedford Court House

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian

Donald W. Marshall photo



K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo # 6

NPS Number

Oct 2, 1973

6

Title:

Bedford Village

Historic District

Loc.

Westchester Co., NY

School House

Benjamin Isaacs House at Right

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society.

Bedford Town Historian

Donald W. Marshall photo



NY 3-A

K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo #7

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973 (7)

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. Westchester Co., NY  
(L to R) Library, Antiques Shop,  
Post office

3-A

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall photo



K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo #8

8

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. West Chester Co., NY  
Presbyterian Church &  
Manse

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall photo



K 5 a

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District

Photo # 9

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973

9

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. West Chester Co., NY  
Mc Donald House

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall *photo*



K 5

Bedford Village (NY) Historic District  
photo #10

NPS Number Oct 2, 1973

(10)

Title: Bedford Village  
Historic District

Loc. Westchester Co., NY  
(L to R) James M. Bates House  
and Albert Williamson House

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Bedford Historical Society

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall photo

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

**1. NAME**

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Bedford Village Historic District		OCT 2 1973

**2. LOCATION**

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
New York	Westchester	Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

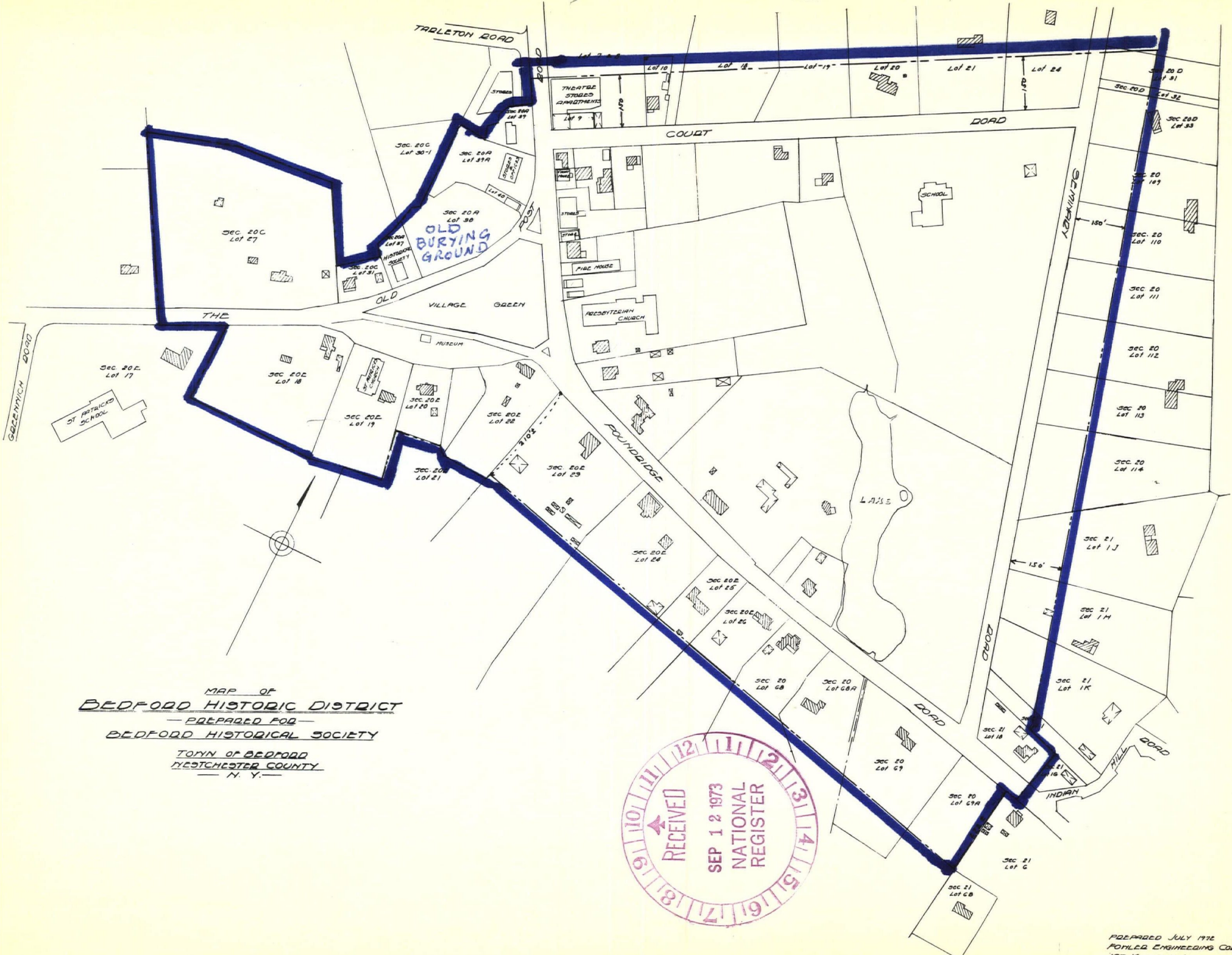
See Description

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Fowler Eng. Corp. Mt. Kisco, NY, from Bedford Town Map	1972	1" = 330'

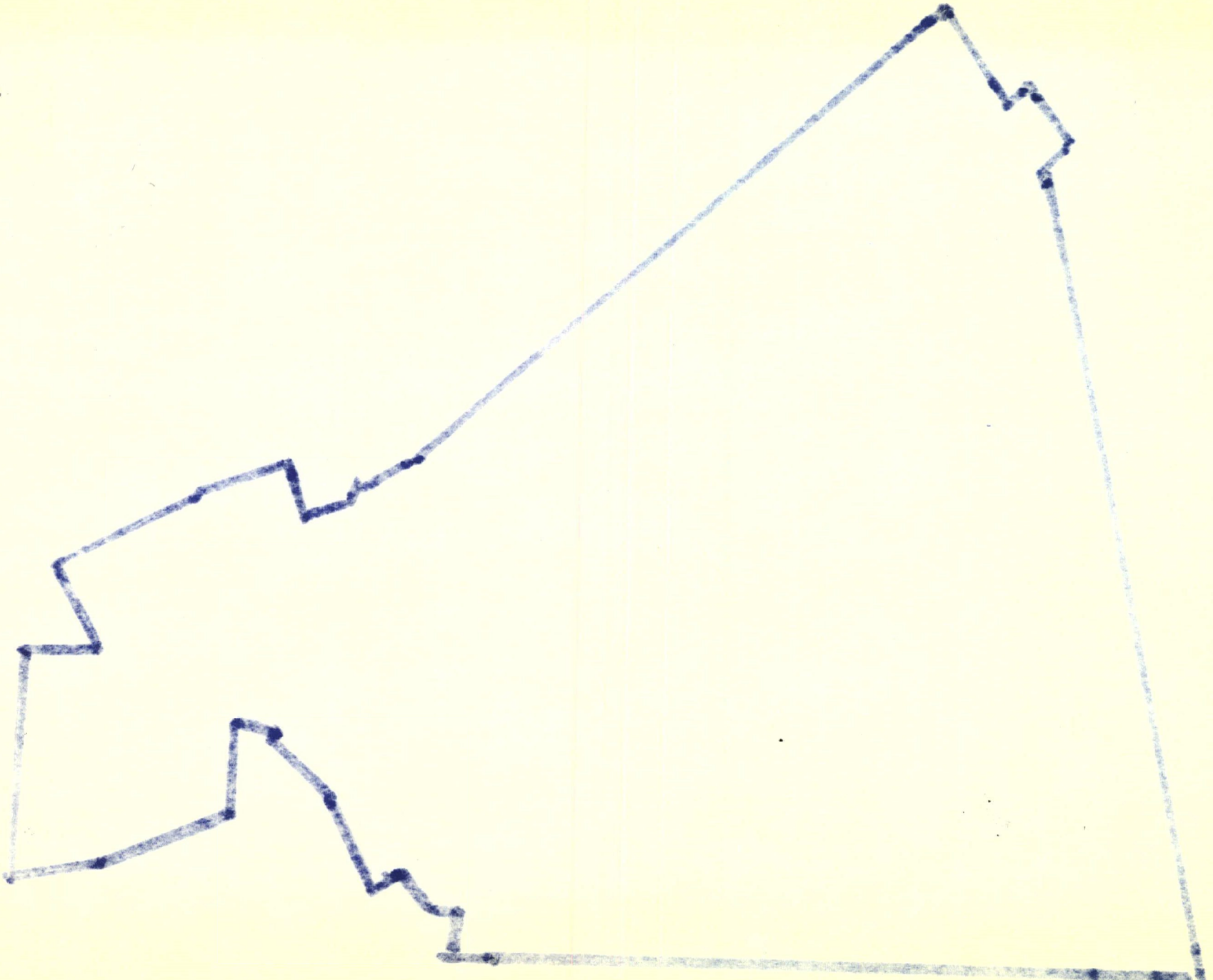
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW;





MAP OF  
BEDFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 — PREPARED FOR —  
BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 TOWN OF BEDFORD  
 WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
 — N. Y. —





①

Bedford Town Historian  
Donald W. Marshall

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

**1. NAME**

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Bedford Village District		OCT 2 1973

**2. LOCATION**

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
New York	Westchester	Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

See Description

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

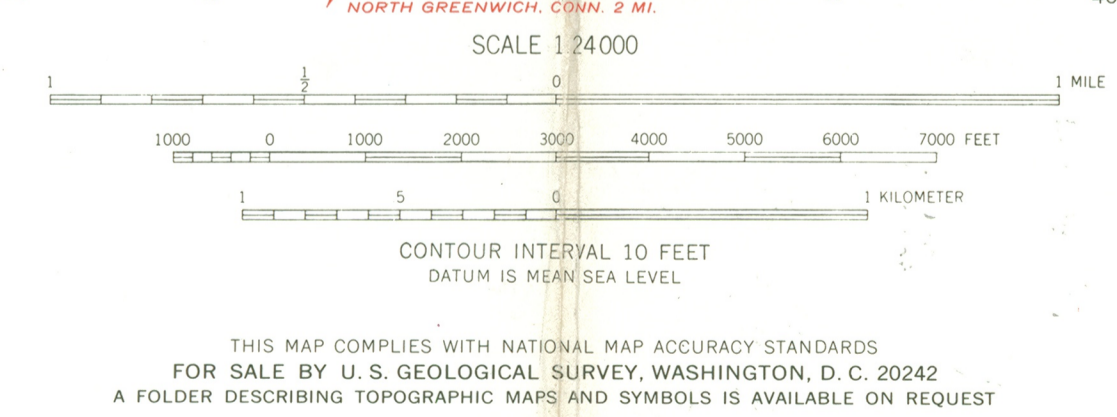
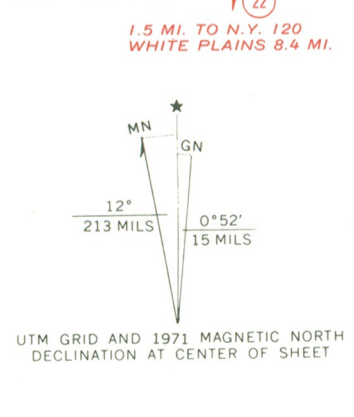
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S. Dept. of the the Interior, Geological survey 7.5 Minute Series	1955	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1955  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system,  
east zone, and Connecticut coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with  
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs  
taken 1971. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ———  
Medium-duty ———  
Light-duty ———  
Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
State Route (red circle)  
Interstate Route (blue circle)  
MOUNT KISCO, N. Y.—CONN.  
N4107.5—W7337.5/7.5  
1955  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 6266 11 NW—SERIES V821



NE 18/614 000  
4562 480  
SE 18/614 900  
4561 920  
SW 18/613 450  
4561 810  
NW 18/613 610  
4562 110  
CD

BEDFORD VILLAGE DISTRICT

BEDFORD

WESTCHESTER CO., N.Y.

*1874*

*1874*



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bldg. South Mall, Albany, New York 12223 Information 518 474-0456  
Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner

September 5, 1973



Dr. William Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Bedford Village Historic District, Bedford, New York,  
Westchester County

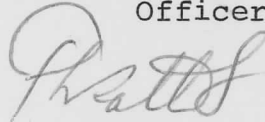
The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

By:

  
F. L. RATH, JR.  
Deputy Commissioner

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered OCT 2 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bedford Village Historic District	Bedford Westchester County
Old Homer Village Historic District	Homer Cortland County
Peebles (Peobles) Island	Waterford Saratoga County
Cutting (Bayard) Estate (Westbrook)	Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits  
Hon. James I. Buckley  
Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.  
Hon. James Hanley  
Hon. Carleton J. King  
Hon. Otis Pike

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner  
Parks and Recreation  
Room 303, South Swan Street Building  
Albany, New York 12223

Director, Northeast Region

PHR MMott 10/4/73

# TOWN OF BEDFORD

DONALD W. MARSHALL  
Town Historian



POSTAL ADDRESS  
Davids Hill Road  
Bedford Hills, N. Y. 10507

TELEPHONE  
914-234-3707

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y.

December 1, 1973

National Register of Historic Places,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C. 20240.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an article from a local newspaper in our area, dealing with the listing of the Bedford Village Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. You may want to put <sup>it</sup> in your files.

In the article, which I wrote for the Patent Trader of Mount Kisco, N.Y., I attempted (to give not only) the historical background on which the listing was based but to tell something about the Register and the benefits arising from inclusion on it.

Very truly yours

Donald W. Marshall  
Bedford Town Historian

# U.S. listing aids Bedford Historic District

Patent Trader  
11/22/73 Mt. Kisco, N.Y.

Drawings copyright, Bedford Historical Society

By DONALD W. MARSHALL  
Bedford Historian

BEDFORD — "This is to certify that Bedford Village Historic District, in recognition of its architectural and historical significance and to encourage its preservation, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior upon nomination by the State Historic Preservation Officer under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966."

In these words, official state and national recognition was given last month to the Bedford Village area designated as a historic district by the Town of Bedford last year. The certificate, signed by Alexander Aldrich, State Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, presented by Joseph Veach Noble, chairman of the State Board for Historic Preservation, to the town and the Bedford Historical Society at the society's annual meeting.

Just what is the Bedford Village



Court House (1787).

Historic District, what are the historical facts and architectural survivals that justified this state and national honor, and how does listing on the National Register help to assure the preservation of this area of "architectural and historical significance"?

Nearly three centuries of the history of a New England community that became part of New York are recorded in physical form in the Bedford Village Historic District. The district embraces most of the original 1680 hamlet and still has a "New England look," with its triangular Village Green surrounded by tall maples and its Old Burying Ground and 18th and 19th Century buildings.

The district lies at a bend in the Old Post Road (New York Route 22); it begins



Historical Hall (1806)

a little west of the green and is bounded by the Old Post Road, the Pound Ridge Road, Seminary Road, and Court Road, including land on both sides of these thoroughfares.

Bedford was settled by Puritans from Stamford, who bought land from the Indians in December of 1680 and laid out Bedford Village the following year as part of the Colony of Connecticut. In 1700 a royal boundary decree put Bedford in New York.

An important inland town in the 1700s, Bedford was staunchly patriot in the Revolution, during much of which it was the seat of Westchester County government. The village was burned by the British in 1779. Two years later, Rochambeau's infantry and cavalry rendezvoused on the Bedford Green during their march south to join



Library (1807)

Washington's forces on the way to Yorktown and final victory.

After the Revolution, and until 1870, Bedford was one of Westchester's two county seats, and for many years it was more populous than the other one, White Plains. In stagecoach days, it was on the New York-Danbury Post Road.

The buildings that give its character to the Historic District are representative of Bedford's county-seat period. The Court House was built in 1787 for county court sessions and supervisors' meetings; it is the oldest county governmental building left in Westchester. Annual town meetings were also held there. The venerable building, which was restored a few years ago, thus represents a continuity in self-government as practiced in Bedford from its beginning.

Few residences on or near the Green are also late 18th Century. Other buildings are early 19th Century — notably the 1806 Methodist Church (Historical Hall), 1807 Bedford Academy (Library), 1829 School House, and the Greek Revival Post Office (c. 1838). (Bedford had a post office before 1798, it being the fourth in Westchester.) The Victorian Gothic Presbyterian Church was erected in 1872; it is the fourth meeting house of the congregation originally composed of the Puritan settlers of Bedford; its site was given by the town for church use in 1719.

The 18th and 19th Century homes south of the Green and along the Pound Ridge Road range in style from colonial to Greek Revival to post-Civil War, some with later alterations reflecting changing architectural tastes. The few modern houses and stores in the village are generally of colonial type, and the 1928 Catholic Church is New England Congregational in style.

Preservation of Bedford Village was due originally to its being kept out of the line of "progress" when the New York & Harlem Railroad was built six miles away in the 1840s. In more recent years, the character of the village has been maintained because the community "likes it that way," key buildings have been saved by the Bedford Historical Society, and new construction has been in keeping with the old. Under the town ordinance setting up the Historic District, a review commission has the duty of maintaining the historic character of the area.

Thus, without being either a ghost town or a reconstructed Sturbridge, Bedford retains the landmarks that evoke the life of a 19th Century court house town and the rather special history of a transplanted community that exemplifies the New England influence on New York.

It is this history of a community, as perpetuated in the physical form of an old town common and graveyard and the buildings that have clustered around them through the centuries, that has won for Bedford a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register, as defined by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is a list of "districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture." The Register has been kept since 1935 by the Department of the Interior, which describes it as "the official schedule of the nation's cultural property that is worth saving."

Included in the Register are historical

areas in the National Park System, National Historic Landmarks, and properties of state or local significance nominated by the states and approved by the National Park Service. In New York, such nominations are made by Commissioner Aldrich as State Historic Preservation Officer, after careful screening by a professional review committee and recommendation by the Board for Historic Preservation.

The benefits of listing on the National Register are: official recognition of historical importance; a measure of protection against damage from projects involving any Federal agency (such as major highways or Federally aided housing); and eligibility for grants for historic preservation.

Although the law does not provide an absolute bar to Federal undertakings that threaten historic properties, it does assure that historical values will be considered and provides for review by a Cabinet-level Advisory Council. Financial aid for properties on the Register may be given through the states on a matching basis. Such Federal aid now amounts to about



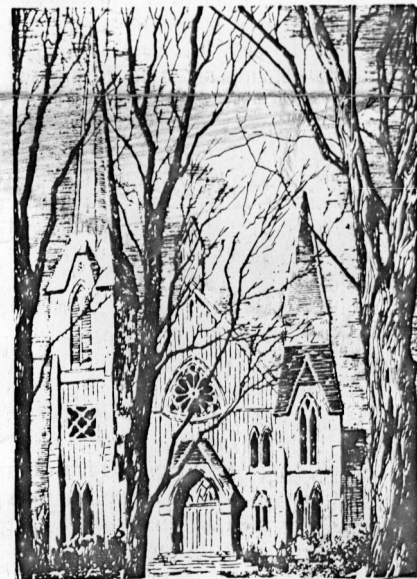
Post Office (c. 1838)

\$500,000 a year for New York but is expected to increase.

Bedford has always been history-conscious. John Jay wrote a sketch of the town for Spafford's Gazetteer in 1813; Robert Bolton, first historian of Westchester, was a Bedford schoolmaster; **two supervisors have been local historians.**

As for the Historic District, almost all the property around the Green belongs to the town, the Historical Society, or the churches. Of the five 18th Century houses, descendants of early families live in two and the others also are highly prized by their owners. The Historic District ordinance was adopted by the town without opposition.

In 1930, Bedford's 250th anniversary was celebrated with pageantry and an address by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. The town is now planning to commemorate its part in the Revolution and its 300th anniversary. With the village on the national honor roll, Bedford's celebration is off to a good start.



Presbyterian Church (1872)

Cole  
12/14

DEC 13 1973

H34-PR

Westchester

New York

~~Blowing~~  
~~Bloomville~~

Mr. Donald W. Marshall  
Bedford Town Historian  
Davids Hill Road  
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for your letter and the copy of your newspaper article. We will be pleased to add it to our file on the Bedford Historic District.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington  
Chief, Branch of Registration  
National Register

cc:  
Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner, Parks and Recreation, Room 303,  
South Swan Street Building, Albany, New York 12223 w/cy inc  
Director, Northeast Region w/cy inc

DI

PR w/cy inc

KHCole:lmw 12-10-73

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR