



# WASHINGTON CROSSING 2026

P.O. BOX 2026, WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA 18977

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May 20, 2013

Dear American Patriot,

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**The historic Thompson-Neely House of Bucks County's Washington Crossing Park is in urgent need of restoration and repair!** Our non-profit organization, Washington Crossing 2026, plans to help finance these repairs and to ensure the necessary maintenance funding. Washington Crossing 2026 is partnering with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to accomplish this goal.

## HISTORY

The Thompson-Neely House is one of the most significant houses in American history. "Two future Presidents of the United States – George Washington and James Monroe – along with other leading Revolutionary figures conferred here. These walls, alone, hold the secrets of important conferences and momentous decisions that resulted in America's inspiring victory at Trenton following the crossing of the Delaware."<sup>1</sup>

## DONATE NOW

Please take the time to read the attachment detailing the mission of our organization, the Thompson-Neely House's history, and the needed work. This fundraising effort has the approval of the PHMC, the Commonwealth entity which oversees the state park. **Please consider helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$500,000 by donating online at [www.wx2026.us](http://www.wx2026.us) or by sending a check along with the attached donation form to Washington Crossing 2026, P.O. Box 2026, Washington Crossing, PA 18977. Donors will be publicly recognized!** Please e-mail us at [patriot@wx2026.us](mailto:patriot@wx2026.us) with any questions.

Thank you for considering the support of this vital project.

Sincerely,

**The Volunteer Board of Directors, Washington Crossing 2026**

1. Hutton, Ann, "House of Decision," 1956.



Thompson-Neely House

## **WHAT IS WASHINGTON CROSSING 2026?**

Washington Crossing 2026 is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to help preserve and restore historic structures at Washington Crossing Historic Park. We look to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crossing in 2026 as the time when we will have helped the Commonwealth complete the restoration of many historic structures at the park. In 2013, we begin with one of the most visited and historically significant houses in Pennsylvania and the United States, the Thompson-Neely House.

## **THE THOMPSON-NEELY HOUSE, ITS CURRENT USE AND HISTORY**

The Thompson-Neely House is currently open to the public thanks to the tireless efforts of local volunteers and state employees. We wish to support these volunteers and workers and preserve a piece of American history by helping to keep the Thompson-Neely House in excellent condition and prevent further deterioration.

As you may know, the Thompson-Neely House is not far from the actual point of embarkation at Washington Crossing Historic Park that memorializes Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River. The Thompson-Neely House played a vital role in this critical phase of the American Revolution, during which a dedicated George Washington and his tattered army of courageous followers surprised the Hessian troops on Christmas Night, 1776, to defeat the Crown Forces at Trenton. This victory has been seen by many as a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Despair and loss turned into victory and paved the way for success at Princeton, New Jersey, through the difficult winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and for the ultimate victory at Yorktown.

Abraham Lincoln referred to the famous crossing when he told the New Jersey Senate in 1861, "I remember reading in my youth, a small book 'The Life of George Washington' and of his struggles none fixed itself on my mind so indelibly as the crossing of the Delaware preceding the battle of Trenton. I remember that these great struggles were made for some object. I am exceedingly anxious that the object they fought for – liberty, and the Union and Constitution they formed – shall be perpetual."

The Thompson-Neely House of Washington Crossing Historic Park was the home of Robert and Hannah Thompson during the Revolutionary War. The home was used prior to Washington's crossing of the Delaware to care for ill soldiers. Soldiers died there during the 1776 and 1777 encampment. Near the house lie historic graves - the final resting place for some of the first American unknown soldiers. A Captain James Moore of the New York artillery is the only soldier known by name to be buried there.

After the first Battle of Trenton, James Monroe and William Washington, of Lord Stirling's Brigade, were believed to have been brought back to the Thompson-Neely House to heal from the wounds they received in battle.

According to tradition, the house became the headquarters of Lord Stirling, Washington's trusted general who commanded the troops stationed along the Delaware River, and the home became known as "The House of Decision" where plans for the famous Christmas night crossing were discussed and developed.

The house was completely restored and furnished in period antiques in 1950 by individuals, and by the Bucks County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Federation of Women's Clubs. Visitors now tour the house and travel back in time with volunteer re-enactors who teach the history of the colonial era.

During the years since its initial restoration, several groups have worked with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to complete ongoing restoration projects at the house. Washington Crossing 2026 wants to continue this tradition and help to maintain this historic treasure, thereby preserving the memory of the sacrifice made by so many in giving birth to this great nation.

## **WHAT IS NEEDED?**

At this time, the PHMC estimates that immediate critical restoration will cost approximately \$205,000. Longer term costs to complete repairs, prevent further damage and provide maintenance are estimated at an additional \$226,000. Therefore, 2026's overall fundraising goal is \$500,000 to pay for estimated work plus 10 to 15% in contingency costs.

## **HOW CAN YOU DONATE?**

**Please consider donating online at [www.wx2026.us](http://www.wx2026.us) or by sending a check along with the enclosed donation form to Washington Crossing 2026, P.O. Box 2026, Washington Crossing, PA 18977.** (Donations are tax-deductible.)

## **SUMMARY OF MAJOR REPAIRS AND RESTORATION**

### **Cedar roof gaps, seams and holes.**

The need to replace the Thompson-Neely House roof is immediate. The gaps are unacceptable in size and have already led to serious water leakage.

### **Chimneys**

The two chimneys are open, and both show deterioration and water damage. Both chimneys should be capped and lined.

### **Pointed mortar, cracks failure, drainage issues.**

Cracks have developed in the exterior stone walls. Repointing and installation of a perimeter drainage system is needed. Downspouts, gutters and flashings should be replaced.

\*Please note that all restoration and repair work will be performed by contractors competent in the area of historic preservation. In addition, Pennsylvania state preservationists will review and approve all planned work on the Thompson-Neely House .All funds received will be earmarked for the Thompson-Neely House unless a donation is specifically given for administrative or other costs. In the event donations are received in excess of the repairs described in this document, the excess monies will be placed in a Thompson-Neely House account to fund future repairs and maintenance at the house.

**PHMC PHASE I COSTS – WORK PLANNED FOR SPRING OF 2014\***

**Total estimate \$205,092.00\***

<b>New cedar shingle roof with combed ridge</b>	<b>\$132,300.00</b>
<b>Replace gutters</b>	<b>\$6,048.00</b>
<b>Replace flashings</b>	<b>\$3,600.00</b>
<b>Replace downspouts</b>	<b>\$5,184.00</b>
<b>Excavate exterior foundation walls and install perimeter drainage system</b>	<b>\$57,960.00</b>

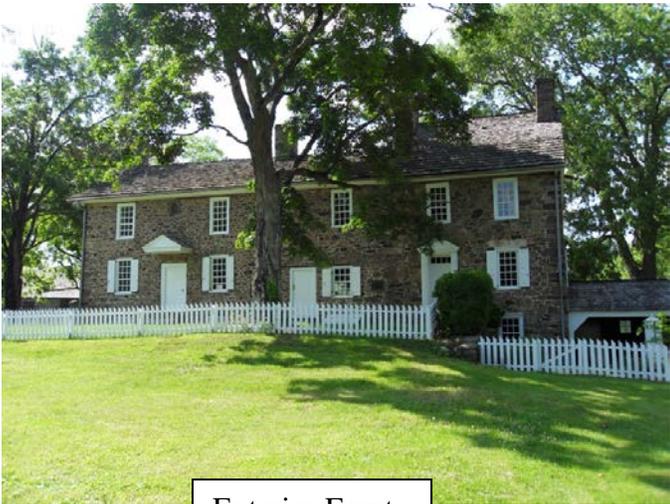
**PHMC PHASE II COSTS- DATE OF WORK TO BE ANNOUNCED\***

**Total estimate: \$226,287.00\***

<b>Install new dampers and chimney caps (4 chimneys)</b>	<b>\$14,400.00</b>
<b>Clear foundation vegetation</b>	<b>\$1,728.00</b>
<b>Repoint stone walls</b>	<b>\$38,250.00</b>
<b>Clean stone walls</b>	<b>\$10,710.00</b>
<b>Exterior woodwork repairs</b>	<b>\$12,240.00</b>
<b>Prep and paint woodwork and doors</b>	<b>\$4,860.00</b>
<b>Prep and paint windows</b>	<b>\$8,640.00</b>
<b>New security lights</b>	<b>\$5,760.00</b>
<b>Excavate foundation at south wall and point</b>	<b>\$2,592.00</b>
<b>Replace wall plate with oak</b>	<b>\$2,592.00</b>
<b>New security lighting</b>	<b>\$5,760.00</b>
<b>Interior repairs</b>	<b>\$80,640.00</b>
<b>Remove roof insulation</b>	<b>\$2,835.00</b>
<b>Install sleepers, plywood and rigid insulation</b>	<b>\$30,240.00</b>
<b>Remove parging, point and reparse south wall</b>	<b>\$5,040.00</b>

\*Cost estimates do not include the standard 10% contingency

**PHOTOS OF THE THOMPSON-NEELY HOUSE**



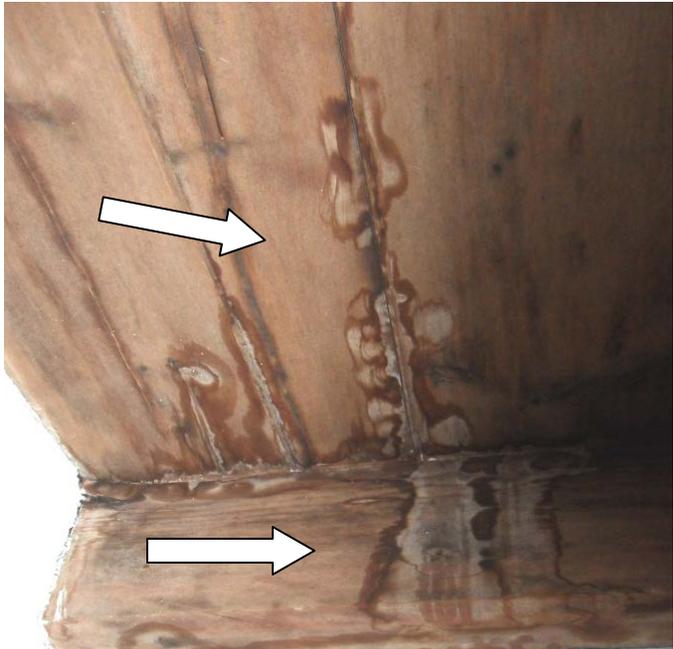
Exterior Front



Mortar Cracks



Interior Damage to Fireplace and Chimney



Water Damage