



# RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY THE WASHINGTON TRAIL – 1753

National Park Service  
Park Planning and Special Studies  
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## Executive Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly (PA-3) to evaluate the likelihood that The Washington Trail – 1753 resources would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Trail if a trail feasibility study was authorized by Congress. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a study fully evaluating the resource should be considered by the U.S. Congress.

The Washington Trail – 1753 covers the 500-mile route from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Fort LeBoeuf (present Waterford, Pennsylvania) that George Washington and his party traversed on his diplomatic mission to the French from October 31, 1753 to January 16, 1754, just prior to the start of the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763).

The National Trails System Act P.L. 90-543 Sec. 5(b) specifies 10 study requirements and three criteria that must be met for a trail to be eligible for designation as a National Historic Trail. Given the limited scope of a reconnaissance survey, this preliminary evaluation focused on evaluating the three eligibility criteria for potential National Historic Trail designation. In consultation with the National Park Service's (NPS) Park Planning and Special Studies Division and with the NPS National Trails System program, the study area was defined as the entire route that Washington took from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Fort LeBoeuf (present Waterford, Pennsylvania) between the dates of October 31, 1753, and January 16, 1754. Upon application of the three eligibility criteria, the NPS finds the following:

*Criterion A: It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use.*

A National Historic Trail Feasibility Study would likely find that it would not meet Criterion A as established by Washington's use from October 31, 1753, to January 16, 1754. Prior to those dates, most if not all of the route from Williamsburg to Fort LeBoeuf had been established and used for similar purposes. Washington's journey did not establish a new use for this route. No properties that include a portion of the route have been identified by the National Park Service as possessing national significance by their association with Washington's journey in 1753.

*Criterion B: It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.*

Analysis of Criterion B indicates that The Washington Trail – 1753 as a whole is unlikely to be found nationally significant with respect to the three themes selected for study: Peopling Places, Shaping the Political Landscape, and Changing Role of the United States in the World Community. Analysis indicates that select locations along The Washington Trail – 1753 may be associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States under those themes; specifically George Washington and possibly others. However, the route of Washington's journey is likely not. For these reasons, this reconnaissance survey finds that The Washington Trail – 1753 is unlikely to meet Criterion B.

*Criterion C: It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.*

The reconnaissance survey found that The Washington Trail – 1753 study area contained an extensive array of historic, educational, and recreational resources and opportunities directly related to Washington’s journey, and would likely meet this criterion if a Historic Trail Feasibility Study is authorized by Congress.

Because the survey area is unlikely to meet two of the three Congressionally mandated criteria to be eligible for inclusion into the National Trail System as a Historic Trail, the National Park Service can not recommend to Congress that a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study be authorized.

The survey team found that the portion of the route detailed in Washington’s (and Gist’s) journal, from Ambridge, Pennsylvania, to Waterford, Pennsylvania, possessed a higher concentration of resources directly associated with his journey and corresponding public educational and recreational opportunities than the other segments. The NPS applauds the work of The Washington Trail – 1753 Organizing Committee and its member organizations to bring the story of this era of the American experience to the public along this portion of Washington’s journey.

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## Part 1: Introduction and Reconnaissance Survey Process

### BACKGROUND

On February 11, 2015, U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly (PA-3) requested that the National Park Service (NPS) undertake a reconnaissance survey of the potential for establishing a National Historic Trail to mark George Washington’s journey in 1753–1754 to Western Pennsylvania to warn French troops to vacate the region (Appendix 1). Based upon the request, the survey area was defined as those communities through which the identified route passed, from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Waterford, Pennsylvania (Figure 1). This area includes parts of five congressional districts in Virginia, one in Maryland, one in West Virginia, and six in Pennsylvania: VA-1 – Rob Wittman; VA-7 – Dave Brat; VA-8 – Don Beyer; VA-10 – Barbara Comstock; VA-11 – Gerry Connolly; MD-6 – John Delaney; WV-2 – Alex Mooney; PA-3 – Mike Kelly; PA-5 – Glenn Thompson; PA-9 – Bill Shuster; PA-12 – Keith Rothfus; PA-14 – Mike Doyle; PA-18 – Vacant.

The trail route passes through 14 counties in Virginia, two in West Virginia, two in Maryland, and nine in Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>. Parts of three National Heritage Areas (NHA)— Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA, where the trail traverses sections of the NHA in Virginia, and portions of the Rivers of Steel NHA and the Oil Region NHA, both in Western Pennsylvania, are also part of the survey area. The route also crosses the North Country National Scenic Trail. In addition, the trail is part of four state tourism regions in Virginia, one in West Virginia, one in Maryland, and three in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> Other heritage education and preservation organizations in the survey area include state heritage areas, county tourism organizations as well as local, regional, and state entities responsible for the preservation, conservation, and marketing of historic resources in the four states through which the route passes.

The request makes reference to the technical assistance work of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program that was being provided to the Washington Trail 1753 Steering Committee in the Western Pennsylvania part of the survey area. The survey team’s RTCA colleague in the region assisted with outreach to, and communication with, that group’s partners/participants for this study. Partners in the steering committee include institutions and public heritage organizations principally from Western Pennsylvania, but also includes Washington’s Mount Vernon in Virginia.

For the purposes of this study, the term “The Washington Trail – 1753” will denote the route taken by George Washington from the date of Virginia Governor Dinwiddie’s letter to the French on

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia – York, James City, New Kent, King William, King and Queen, Essex, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick Counties

West Virginia – Hampshire and Mineral Counties

Maryland – Allegany and Garrett Counties

Pennsylvania – Somerset, Fayette, Westmoreland, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Venango, Crawford, and Erie Counties

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Tourism Regions – Coastal Virginia-Hampton Roads, Chesapeake Bay, Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley

West Virginia Tourism Region – Potomac Highlands

Maryland Tourism Region – Western

Pennsylvania Tourism Regions – Laurel Highlands, Pittsburgh and Its Countryside, and Pennsylvania’s Great Lakes Region

October 31, 1753 to January 16, 1754 (the date of his return to Williamsburg). The term “Washington’s journey” will denote the events that occurred during the travels of George Washington either alone, or, depending on the portion of the route being discussed, his entire travelling party between those same dates. At times these included the noted explorer and frontiersman Christopher Gist, his interpreter and servitors, members of the Iroquois, Delaware, and other tribes (Tanacharison, Monakatoocha, Shingiss), and French officers and soldiers. Use of the term “Washington’s journey” is not intended to minimize the importance of these companions who at times played crucial roles in events along the route, and may be significant persons in American history in their own right.

## **PURPOSE**

National Historic Trails are designated by Congress to protect the remains of significant overland or water routes to reflect the history of the nation and are part of the National Trails System. Nineteen National Historic Trails have been authorized under the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625), amending the National Trails System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543, as amended through Public Law 111-11).

The National Park Service prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly (PA-3) to evaluate the likelihood that The Washington Trail – 1753 resources would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Trail if a trail feasibility study was authorized by Congress. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a study fully evaluating the resource(s) should be considered by the U.S. Congress. This reconnaissance survey makes preliminary findings on whether the resources would be likely or unlikely to meet criteria for potential establishment as a National Historic Trail, and recommends whether further study through a Congressionally authorized feasibility study is advisable.

## **RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY PROCESS**

This report was prepared following the guidance in the National Park Service’s “Guidelines for Special Resource Studies,” and in reference to recently completed “Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Extension Study.” In consultation with the National Park Service’s Park Planning and Special Studies Division, and with the National Park Service’s National Trails System Program, the area selected for survey was the entire route of Washington’s journey from Williamsburg to Fort LeBoeuf and back between the dates of October 31, 1753, and January 16, 1754. Discussion of locations and events in this document is not intended to describe the precise locations of the route or describe in detail all of the events along it; its purpose is to provide sufficient context to examine the associated resources and events relevant to applying the National Historic Trail criteria.

The reconnaissance survey process followed by the NPS project team included site visits, data collection, extensive research in relevant primary and secondary resources (such as historic maps and scholarly publications), and interviews with experts in the field. Internal consultation was performed with National Park Service Planning and National Trails System staff as well as the Northeast Region’s National Historic Landmarks and History programs.

Reconnaissance-level surveys are not decision documents and do not require formal public consultation. Targeted discussions with key stakeholders were held to identify key resources and gauging public interest; however, no stakeholders were involved in the analysis of the criteria or the preparation of the findings.



A key element of the survey process was a five-day site visit by the survey team in April, 2016 to western Pennsylvania. Coordinated by the survey team's RTCA colleague and in cooperation with The Washington Trail – 1753 Steering Committee (see Appendix 3 for a list of organizations represented), the team's itinerary included historic sites, museums, and other public and private facilities from Fort Necessity National Battlefield in the south to the site of Fort Presque Isle in Erie, Pennsylvania, the northernmost site of the tour, a distance of approximately 200 miles. The sites visited were selected to offer a general background for the trail's story and provide a sample of possible sites, programs, educational opportunities, and related themes as well as to serve as meeting venues for tour participants. Academic contacts, tourism officials, and other community leaders participated at selected sites to help complete and deepen aspects of the trail's history and heritage. The survey team was composed of three members of the NPS's Northeast Region Park Planning and Special Studies program and the Superintendent of the National Trails Intermountain Region Office (Appendix 2). The RTCA contact, Peggy Pings, because of her role in the ongoing NPS project in support of The Washington Trail – 1753 Steering Committee, could not participate as a team member in the analysis of criteria or development of findings. It should be noted that her efforts in support of the survey team were excellent in every way and were invaluable in the team's work.

In addition to visiting individual sites, the survey team traveled along segments of The Washington Trail – 1753 driving route, which is located in close proximity to, or in some cases directly on, the trail route in Western Pennsylvania. The driving route is a primary initiative developed by trail partners for commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the French and Indian War. That project has included public outreach and funding for directional signs, a cell phone tour, and maps/marketing materials.

A number of the stakeholders participated in some part of the April tour and informational presentation on the survey. These include, but are not limited to, those listed in Appendix 3. Additional organizations and agencies were represented at various sites along the tour route including staff of Fort Necessity National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service.

This report does not include an adequate consideration of properties that may be significant, but are currently undocumented in state or federal databases or listings, from a Native American perspective. Because the survey process does not include a public involvement component due to the scope of the effort, the preliminary nature of the findings, and cost constraints, properties and areas of significance to that community are likely to be underrepresented or absent. If a Special Resource Study is authorized by Congress, then an extensive program of outreach should be conducted to close this gap.

The survey team did extensive research in primary and secondary sources. The study was fortunate to have the journals of both George Washington and Christopher Gist as well as the accompanying map of Washington's journal as primary sources. These journals identified locations along the route, documented French and Indian activities that Washington observed, and discussed diplomatic activities. Other primary sources included the *Diaries of George Washington*, *Christopher Gist's Journals*, and *The Collected Papers of Robert Dinwiddie*. Selected secondary resources on the French and Indian War (1754-1763), and Native American diplomacy were also reviewed. Survey team members interviewed two scholars—Norman Baker and Carl Robertson—who have been researching the route that George Washington traveled in 1753–1755<sup>3</sup>. These researchers provided hand-drawn maps of the route on current topographic base maps which were then transcribed into

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<sup>3</sup> Norman Baker is an independent historian who has published "Following Braddock's Road". Carl Robertson is director of the Providence Plantation Foundation.

an electronic format. Cartographic resources from the Library of Congress, the Library of Virginia, and the State Library of Pennsylvania were also consulted. A comprehensive list of scholars, librarians, and other experts contacted for this survey is provided in Appendix 4. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark program files on properties along the route were examined to identify and evaluate their relationship to Washington's 1753 journey. State historic property records from each of the four states that the route crossed were researched to identify associated historic buildings or sites.

## Part 2: Description of George Washington's Route

The 500-mile route (Figure 1) that George Washington traveled in 1753 from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Fort LeBoeuf (current day Waterford, Pennsylvania) today passes through a great variety of landscapes, from large urban areas to significant swaths of park land and open space in large parts of eastern and northern Virginia and Western Pennsylvania and small sections of rural northeastern West Virginia and northwestern Maryland. Despite modern urban intrusions, the intervening landscapes have retained broad integrity and a visitor can experience historic settings as well as natural landscapes and features similar to what Washington and his companions would have seen in 1753. Geographic features such as the Allegheny Mountains, the Potomac, Monongahela, Youghiogheny, Ohio, and Allegheny Rivers, and French Creek, which played such a significant role in the journey, still are prominent natural features on the landscape. The route also passes near, but not through, three National Natural Landmarks that preserve Colonial-era natural communities.

Washington's journey passed through the cities of Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Alexandria, and Winchester, Virginia, Cumberland, Maryland, as well as the future site of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Although some place names have changed, particularly in Western Pennsylvania, which was frontier and contested land in 1753, the communities in Virginia that George Washington mentioned in his journal, have retained their English place names and much of their Colonial Era architecture and layout. Appendix 5 provides a listing of the locations mentioned in the journals of George Washington and Christopher Gist and the locations that they represent today.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On October 30, 1753, George Washington was commissioned by Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie to deliver a letter to the commandant of the French forces who had "... assembled in a hostile manner on the River Ohio, intending by force of arms to erect certain forts on the said river, within this territory and contrary to the peace and dignity of our Sovereign the King of Great Britain." He was instructed to proceed to Logs Town<sup>4</sup> on the Ohio River, to inform the Iroquois emissaries there of his mission, learn where the French forces had posted themselves and proceed to that place, and there deliver his letter to the chief commanding officer and demand a letter in reply. The letter asserted that building of fortresses and settlements there by the French was in violation of "...the treaties now subsisting between the two Crowns." And that it was his (Dinwiddie's) duty to "...require your peaceable departure."

In addition to delivering the letter and returning its reply, he was given this instruction by Dinwiddie:

"You are diligently to enquire into the numbers and force of the French on the Ohio, and the adjacent country; how they are like to be assisted from Canada; and what are the difficulties and conveniences of that communication, and the time required for it. You are to take care to be truly informed what forts the French have erected, and where; How they are garrisoned and appointed and what is their distance from each other and from Logstown; and from the best intelligence you can procure, you are to learn what gave occasion to this expedition of the French. How they are like to be supported, and what their pretensions are."

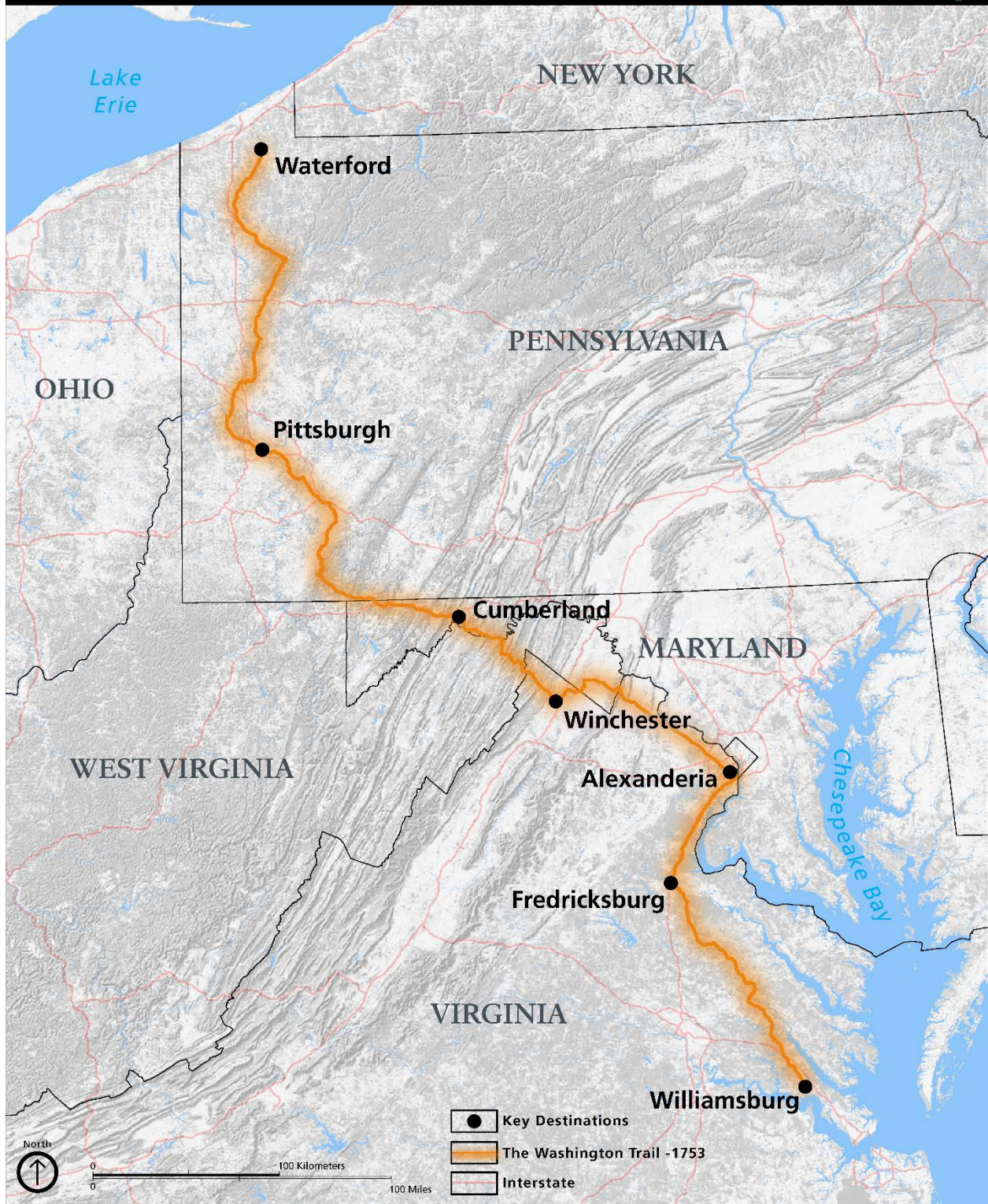
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<sup>4</sup> In the colonial era, this location was consistently called "Logstown" or "the Logstown" (also sometimes spelled Loggstown). Modern usage is "Logs Town.")

# Reconnaissance Survey: The Washington Trail - 1753

Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia

US Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

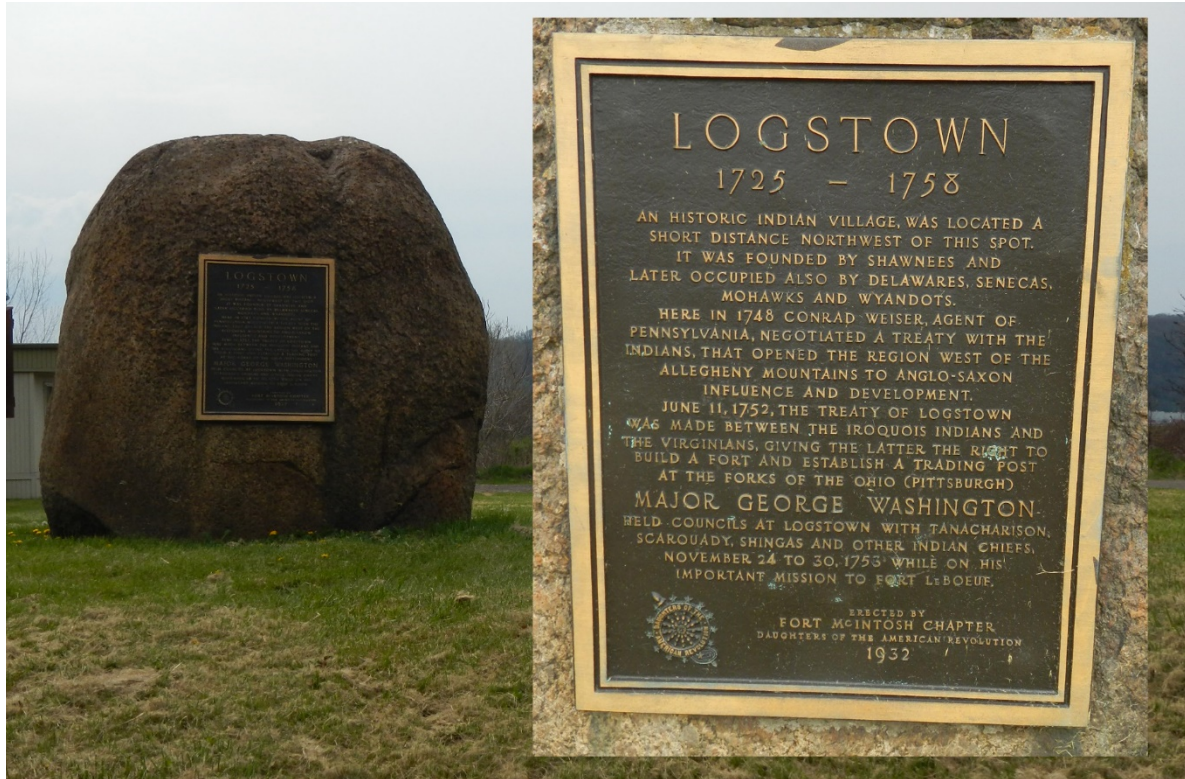


The Washington Trail - 1753 survey area.

In the autumn of 1753, the British and French Empires were on the brink of the fourth and final of the French and Indian Wars (known in France as the Intercolonial wars) in North America—the French and Indian War (1754–1763). The four wars (as they were contested in North America as components of larger global conflicts) were fought over control of land settled by Europeans, territorial claims outside of areas inhabited by Europeans, and for trade relations with Native American tribes. The first, King William's War (1688–1697), had thwarted the expansion of New England into French Acadia and had established European dependence on the tribes for military success. The second, Queen Anne's War (1702–1713), ended the expansion of either colonial power into the existing European settlements, and the establishment of a string of French fortifications along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence and Mississippi drainages. The third, King George's War (1744–1748), ended in a stalemate when British military gains in the field in Newfoundland returned to France in exchange for the French return of Madras, India, to the British. During that conflict, the British had blockaded New France, shutting off the French trade and establishing the dominance of the British traders with the Tribes.

Throughout these wars, the principal Native peoples in contact with both the British and the French belonged to the nations of the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations. Iroquoian dominance of the region was based on military prowess and diplomacy. Using their ready access to European trade networks, they either defeated or dominated adjacent tribes, expanding their “Long House,” to include other tribes as “struts” for which they assumed diplomatic authority, especially in regard to relations with the colonial powers. Between those colonial powers, the Iroquois had long maintained an active neutrality, concurrently maintaining council fires with the British in Albany, New York (the Covenant Chain), and with the French in Montreal (the Great Peace of Montreal). At the 1701 Treaty of Albany, to counter the French and their First Nations allies, the Iroquois had placed their hunting territory under British protection. Their claimed hunting territory in the Ohio Valley had been largely depopulated following the Beaver Wars of the late 1600s. However, by the 1740s groups of “Ohio Indians” composed of Wyandot, Shawnee, and Mingos (the latter composed of independent Iroquoian Seneca and Cayuga living in the Ohio Valley) and dispossessed Delaware had moved into this area nominally controlled by the Iroquois, and were developing their own economic and diplomatic interests. The Ohio Indians tended to align their interests closer to the French, who in turn felt threatened by the Native people's robust trade with the British. At the time of Washington's journey, the Iroquois asserted diplomatic hegemony over the area and over the local inhabitants through their emissaries at Logs Town (Tanacharison, the Iroquois “Half King”, and Monakatoocha who was one of the “sachems of the Six Nations”), but did not necessarily have the resources to control events on the ground there.





In 1749, soon after the end of King George's War and to take advantage of the weakened French influence in the area, the British Crown awarded the Ohio Company a grant of 500,000 acres in the Ohio Country between the Monongahela and the Kanawha Rivers, provided that the company would settle 100 families within seven years. The Ohio Company was owned in part by members of the British Board of Trade, the Governor of Virginia Robert Dinwiddie, and other leading families of Virginia. Its goals and activities in the Ohio Valley were essentially one and the same with the government of Virginia throughout this period. To meet the seven-year deadline, in mid-1752 Virginia and Pennsylvania negotiated the Treaty of Logstown with members of the Delaware, Shawnee, Mingo, and Iroquois tribes. Despite the assertion by Tanacharison that the 1744 Treaty of Lancaster had not established the right of British settlement west of the Alleghenies, the 1752 treaty allowed for the expansion of British settlements south and east of the Ohio River, and for the construction of a fortified place at the mouth of the Monongahela. For the British, the treaty was negotiated by three shareholders of the Ohio Company: Colonel Joshua Fry, Lunsford Lomax, and James Patton (author of the Patten "Fur Trader's Map" of 1752). (Prior to his sudden death at Wills Creek on his way to the Forks of the Ohio, Fry was the commander of the Virginia militia's expedition that ended with Washington's defeat at Fort Necessity. He was also an author of the Fry-Jefferson map of 1752, the definitive cartographic resource for the era). Also present at Logs Town was Christopher Gist, a prominent frontiersman who had explored the region for the Ohio Company starting in 1750 including trips to Logs Town, Shannopin's Town, and the Forks of the Ohio. By 1753 Gist had helped establish the Ohio Company's road from Wills Creek (modern Cumberland, Maryland) to Redstone on the Monongahela and had established a settlement near Mount Braddock, Pennsylvania.

In an 18th-century version of the domino theory, the French feared that, if the British controlled the Ohio Valley, it would divide their two great provinces of Canada and Louisiana and ultimately bring about their loss. In 1749 the French had reasserted their claim to the Ohio Valley by burying a series of lead plates along the Ohio drainage, and by 1753, had begun building a string of fortifications from

Lake Erie to New Orleans, both to re-establish trade with the Native peoples and to block the ongoing expansion of British settlement. By the time of Washington's journey, two French forts had been constructed: Fort Presque Isle (Erie, PA) and Fort LeBoeuf (Waterford, PA). At Franklin, PA (then called Venango) they had not yet built Fort Machault, but rather were occupying the house of an English trader. These forts were intended not only for military purposes, but to be trade and logistical outposts. This move threatened the viability of the Treaty of Logstown, the Crown grant, and the investment of the Ohio Company. Alarmed by reports of their activities, Dinwiddie appealed to the Crown in early 1753 for authority to forcibly oppose this French incursion, casting their efforts as a first step to encircling the British colonies and pushing them off of the Atlantic coast. The lukewarm response from the British cabinet to his alarms was to remain strictly on the defensive, and not to use force, excepting within the "undoubted limits" of His Majesty's Dominions.

By applying an expansive interpretation of the Treaties of Albany, Lancaster, and Logstown, Dinwiddie asserted that the standard had been met—all that was left was to present the French with a peaceful summons to depart before asserting force. On October 31, 1753, he drafted a demand to the commander of the French forces in the Ohio Valley to leave. He chose George Washington to deliver his message.



Twenty-one-year-old Major George Washington was a surveyor and was a member of Virginia's landed gentry. Dinwiddie and other prominent Virginians knew George Washington as the half-brother of Lawrence and Augustine (Jr.) Washington. Prior to his death in 1752, Lawrence had attained much of what George aspired to; he owned land, he had been commissioned and fought in King George's War, had married into the family of Colonel William Fairfax (manager of the Northern Neck Proprietary for Lord Fairfax), and was the adjutant of Virginia's militia. Lawrence had helped form and manage the Ohio Company as well as owning shares in it (Governor Dinwiddie, William Fairfax, George Washington, and other prominent Virginians were also shareholders). George had already become a familiar of the Fairfax family—they had employed his services as a surveyor in 1748 and had him named as the official surveyor of Culpepper County in then-western Virginia. It was upon his half-brother's death that George was commissioned as a district adjutant of the Virginia militia and which gave him both the military and social standing to deliver Dinwiddie's letter.

In late 1753, Washington traveled from Williamsburg, Virginia, through today's Maryland, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, to Waterford, Pennsylvania, to deliver the message to the French commander. Guided by veteran frontiersman and Ohio Company agent Christopher Gist from Will's Creek westward, he completed his 500-mile journey to Fort LeBoeuf in a snowstorm, on December 11, 1753. Washington delivered the letter to the senior officer, Captain Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre, requesting that he withdraw his French troops from the Ohio Valley. Legardeur de Saint-Pierre in reply, wrote a letter stating: "the rights of the King, my master, to the lands situated along the Ohio are incontestable."<sup>5</sup> He declined to withdraw and stated that he would forward Governor

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<sup>5</sup> Fred Anderson, *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766* (New York: Vintage Books, 2000), p. 45.



Dinwiddie's letter to his superiors. On Washington's return, as he approached Wills Creek, he noted that he had met "...seventeen horses loaded with materials and stores for a fort at the forks of Ohio, and the day after, some families going out to settle." This was the party that Diwiddie had dispatched to construct Fort Prince George—which was incomplete when captured by French forces on April 18, 1754. Upon his return to Williamsburg, Washington prepared a report describing his trip which was widely circulated in the colonies and in London.

In accordance with his instructions, while at Fort LeBoeuf, Washington made detailed observations of the strengths of the French and opportunities for the British to effectively counter them, including strengthening alliances with the local tribal leaders. During the five days that Washington was waiting for a response to his letter, he observed the layout of the fort, the number of French troops, and, most importantly, almost 200 canoes and boats that the French were preparing to use to travel to the Forks of the Ohio, where a fort would allow them to control the gateway to the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys. This prefigured a significant military advance by the French, which Washington would report on to Governor Dinwiddie.

Upon Washington's return and delivery of his intelligence that the French intended to fortify the Forks of the Ohio that spring with a large force, Dinwiddie immediately began mobilizing an expedition to expel them. Appeals to Lord Fairfax, James Patton, William Trent, and John Carlyle to raise men and procure provisions were made within days of his return. Dinwiddie appealed to the Iroquois to oppose the French, noting that Washington had made a good report of their fidelity to the British. He also wrote to the Six Nations asking them to send warriors against the French "...to whose assistance I propose in short time to send a considerable number of our soldiers."<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Virginia Historical Society. *The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie*. (New York: AMS Press, 1971), p58.



The 400 soldiers that Dinwiddie sent were under the command of his recent messenger, George Washington. The command had devolved to him after the sudden death of its commander, Colonel Joshua Fry (commissioner of the Treaty of Logstown, cartographer, and shareholder in the Ohio Company). Christopher Gist joined the party and together they retraced much of the route they had taken to Gist's settlement in 1753. Since England and France were officially at peace, Washington had orders from Dinwiddie to forcibly expel the French only if, when he informed them that they should withdraw from the Ohio Valley, they refused to do so. Before the force arrived, the French had captured the fledging fortification at the Forks by Ohio Company, torn down its walls, and rebuilt it as Fort Dusquene. Arriving in the region and discovering that the French now occupied the Forks, Washington encamped his command at the Great Meadows (now the location of Fort Necessity National Battlefield), south of Gist's settlement at Mount Braddock. On May 28, 1754, Washington inadvertently ended up undertaking a military action against French troops which precipitated the French and Indian War and triggered a clash of the British and French empires that crossed Europe and stretched to India. Historian Fred Anderson, in his comprehensive *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*, has written that "Nothing could have been further from Washington's mind, or more alien to the designs of the men who had entrusted him with troops and ordered him to the Ohio Valley, than beginning a war. Neither he nor his masters imagined that they were setting in train events that would destroy the American empire of France."<sup>7</sup>

George Washington's expedition to the Ohio Country in 1753 was part of the British imperial strategy to exclude the French from the region and secure it for British-American settlement. Historian Richard White described this imperial system as a "world system in which minor agents, allies, and even subjects at the periphery often guide the course of empires."<sup>8</sup> Washington's mission was a small, though important, piece of a larger process that contributed to the expulsion of the French from North America and opened up the Ohio Valley to British and American settlement.

Historian David Preston wrote: "Following the capture of Fort Duquesne [in 1758], thousands of colonial hunters, squatters, traders, and veterans followed British military roads into the Ohio Valley, where they displaced its Indian residents and sparked renewed conflict for the region's lands and resources."<sup>9</sup> Fort Pitt, which the British built at the Forks of the Ohio, was the kernel of Pittsburgh, which became the first permanent British settlement west of the Alleghenies. After the French and Indian War in 1763, the British did not observe a cultural "middle ground" with the Native peoples, but sought to dominate them as subjects, which led to wars and ultimately their expulsion from the Ohio Country.

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<sup>7</sup> Anderson, *Crucible of War*, p. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), p. xi.

<sup>9</sup> David Preston, *Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), p. 9.

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## Part 3: Criteria for New National Historic Trails

The National Trails System Act P.L. 90-543 Sec. 5(b) specifies 10 study requirements and three criteria that must be met for a trail to be eligible for designation as a National Historic Trail. Given the limited scope of a reconnaissance survey, this preliminary evaluation focused on evaluating the three eligibility criteria for potential National Historic Trail designation. The Washington Trail – 1753 will be evaluated as “likely” or “not likely” to qualify for designation as a National Historic Trail based upon the three criteria of SEC. 5.(b) (11) listed in their entirety below.

To qualify for designation as a national historic trail, a trail must meet all three of the following criteria:

(A) It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use. The route need not currently exist as a discernible trail to qualify, but its location must be sufficiently known to permit evaluation of public recreation and historical interest potential. A designated trail should generally accurately follow the historic route, but may deviate somewhat on occasion of necessity to avoid difficult routing through subsequent development, or to provide some route variations offering a more pleasurable recreational experience. Such deviations shall be so noted on site. Trail segments no longer possible to travel by trail due to subsequent development as motorized transportation routes may be designated and marked onsite as segments which link to the historic trail.

(B) It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.

(C) It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.

The Washington Trail – 1753 is evaluated against each of the three criteria (A, B, and C separately below.)

### **CRITERION A: PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF TRAIL’S HISTORIC USE AND NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*(A) It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use. The route need not currently exist as a discernible trail to qualify, but its location must be sufficiently known to permit evaluation of public recreation and historical interest potential. A designated trail should generally accurately follow the historic route, but may deviate somewhat on occasion of necessity to avoid difficult routing through subsequent development, or to provide some route variations offering a more pleasurable recreational experience. Such deviations shall be so noted on site. Trail segments no longer possible to travel by trail due to subsequent development as motorized transportation routes may be designated and marked onsite as segments which link to the historic trail.*



The three elements of Criterion A are discussed in the following sections:

***Are the locations of the Washington 1753 route sufficiently known?***

The route that George Washington took was documented by Washington's journal which included a schematic map of the journey (Figure 2). Washington's journal is supplemented by the journal kept by his companion Christopher Gist, an expert on this frontier area. Other accounts from the Colonial Era provide further detail about the trails used in the mid-18th century. Near-contemporary cartographic evidence exists in the 1755 (State 3) Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson Map "A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia containing the Whole province of Maryland with Part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina," and the 1753 "Patten Great Lakes and Ohio River Valley Trappers Map." There is considerable evidence that both maps had been informed by Christopher Gist's earlier explorations.

Much contemporary study of the route of George Washington's 1753 mission and subsequent British expeditions against the French forts has filled in details related to Washington's route. These studies include Norman L. Baker, *Braddock's Road: Mapping of the British Expedition from Alexandria to the Monongahela* (2013); Kevin Kopper, ed., *The Journals of George Washington and Christopher Gist: Mission to Fort LeBoeuf, 1753-1754*, (2009); David Preston, *Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution* (2015); Barnet Schecter, *George Washington's America: A Biography through His Maps* (2010); Paul A. Wallace, *Historic Indian Paths of Pennsylvania* (1952). Carl F. Robertson, PhD, has also shared ongoing research relating to Washington's route. Much of his route may be mapped directly onto existing roads or historic road traces.





1755 Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson Map depicting the existing road network between Williamsburg, Virginia and Wills Creek, Maryland.



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*Was the study trail and route established by historic use?*

The intent of this part of the criterion is to ensure the route being considered is a definable trail used in the historic period and not an arbitrarily created route. The critical question is if the route taken by Washington between October 31, 1753 and November 16, 1754 was used in a different way than it had been used in the past. Routes established later than the dates of Washington's journey, or any significance they may have obtained outside of those dates, do not qualify the route to meet this criterion.

The subject of this reconnaissance survey, as defined by the Congressional request, is the route taken by Washington from October 31, 1753 to January 16, 1754. For analysis, the route may be divided into three sections: From Williamsburg to Wills Creek, from Wills Creek to Logs Town, and from Logs Town to Fort LeBoeuf. Dinwiddie's instructions and Washington's journal clarify the purposes to which he was charged: diplomacy to the French, diplomacy to the Native American tribes, and the collection of military intelligence.

From Williamsburg to Wills Creek, Washington followed well-established colonial roads depicted on the 1755 Fry Jefferson Map. His journal, in the space of a single paragraph, relates his travel from Williamsburg to Fredericksburg, to Alexandria, to Winchester, to Wills Creek with no indication that in this portion of his journey that the route itself warranted any elaboration in respect to Dinwiddie's instructions. Washington had spent much of his youth traveling between some of the places on his route; the routes between Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, and Alexandria would have been already familiar. Washington had spent most of his youth near Fredericksburg and at the time of his journey his mother lived in the town. Alexandria had been founded in 1749 and George Washington had earlier surveyed a portion of it. The road network linking those places were well established and had been in use for many years prior. The road to Winchester had also been in use prior to his journey and is depicted in the Fry Jefferson map as well. Wills Creek had been established as a fortified trading post by the Ohio Company by 1750; the road from Winchester to Wills Creek was likely more recent but by the time of Washington's journey, it had become the established portal used by traders, settlers, and Indian commissioners from Virginia into the Ohio Valley.<sup>10</sup>

From Wills Creek to Logs Town, Washington's party (now including Christopher Gist, his interpreter, and four "servitors"<sup>11</sup>) traveled primarily on the road opened by the Ohio Company to link Wills Creek with their post at Redstone on the Allegheny River. Sometimes called the Nemaquin Path, it was the route first taken by Native Americans from the Ohio Valley to the headwaters of the Potomac that had been improved by Christopher Gist and Thomas Cresap (a Maryland trader and frontiersman) in 1750. Later, in 1755, portions of it became part of Braddock's Road and much later, the National Road. On this part of the route they passed through the Great Meadows (the scene of Washington's Fort Necessity later in 1754) and Christopher Gist's new settlement that he had founded in 1752 near present-day Mount Braddock, PA. From there they went to the establishment of the Indian trader John Fraser (called "Fraziers" by both Washington and Gist) at the mouth of Turtle Creek and then rode on to Shannopin's Town (they had sent their provisions there from Fraziers by canoe) on the Allegheny, a distance of some 10 miles along a route that is less well known. Washington's journal was again silent on details of this segment; however, the

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<sup>10</sup> The road from Thomas Cresap's trading post in Old Town, Maryland had been connected to the Ohio Company's post at Wills Creek by a road as early as 1750.

<sup>11</sup> At Wills Creek, Washington hired four "servitors" or attendants who managed his horses and baggage.

Virginia delegation to the treaty of Logstown likely traveled this same route in 1752.<sup>12</sup> From Shannopin's they rode to Logs Town, again likely following the path taken by the Logstown Treaty Commissioners and others traveling from Wills Creek to Logs Town.

From Logs Town to Fort LeBoeuf, and escorted by the Iroquois emissaries, Washington's group "...travelled on the road to Venango."<sup>13</sup> At Venango, at the former house of John Fraser (an English subject and Indian trader) they encountered French officers who escorted them to Fort LeBoeuf. Their route from Logs Town to Venango likely followed the Indian route known as the "Logstown Path." From Venango to Fort LeBoeuf (and on to Lake Erie), the route—with a significant detour because of flooding—followed the Indian route known as the Venango Path.<sup>14</sup> It is likely the route taken by the Iroquois emissary Tanacharison, (also called the "Half-King") in September 1753 from Logs Town to Presque Isle to carry the Iroquois warning to the French to withdraw. It is unknown how much the French had improved the route from Fort LeBoeuf to Venango, but it well documented their having built a road linking Presque Isle to Fort LeBoeuf.

Washington's return route deviated in two places on his return to Williamsburg, both in northwest Pennsylvania. After delivering his message and receiving his reply he traveled down French Creek by canoe to Venango. Also, from somewhere south of Venango, Washington and Gist left the existing trail and traveled overland to the Allegheny near Pittsburgh before rejoining his earlier route at or near Shannopin's Town.

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<sup>12</sup> "The Treaty of Logg's Town – Journal of the Virginia Commissioners, 1752." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 13, 154-174.

<sup>13</sup> Washington's Journal entry of November 30, 1753.

<sup>14</sup> Wallace, Paul A., *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*. (Harrisburg: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1965.) p170. See also A.D. Marble and Co, *Pennsylvania Archeological Data Synthesis: The Beaver Creek Watershed*. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 2011) p 95.



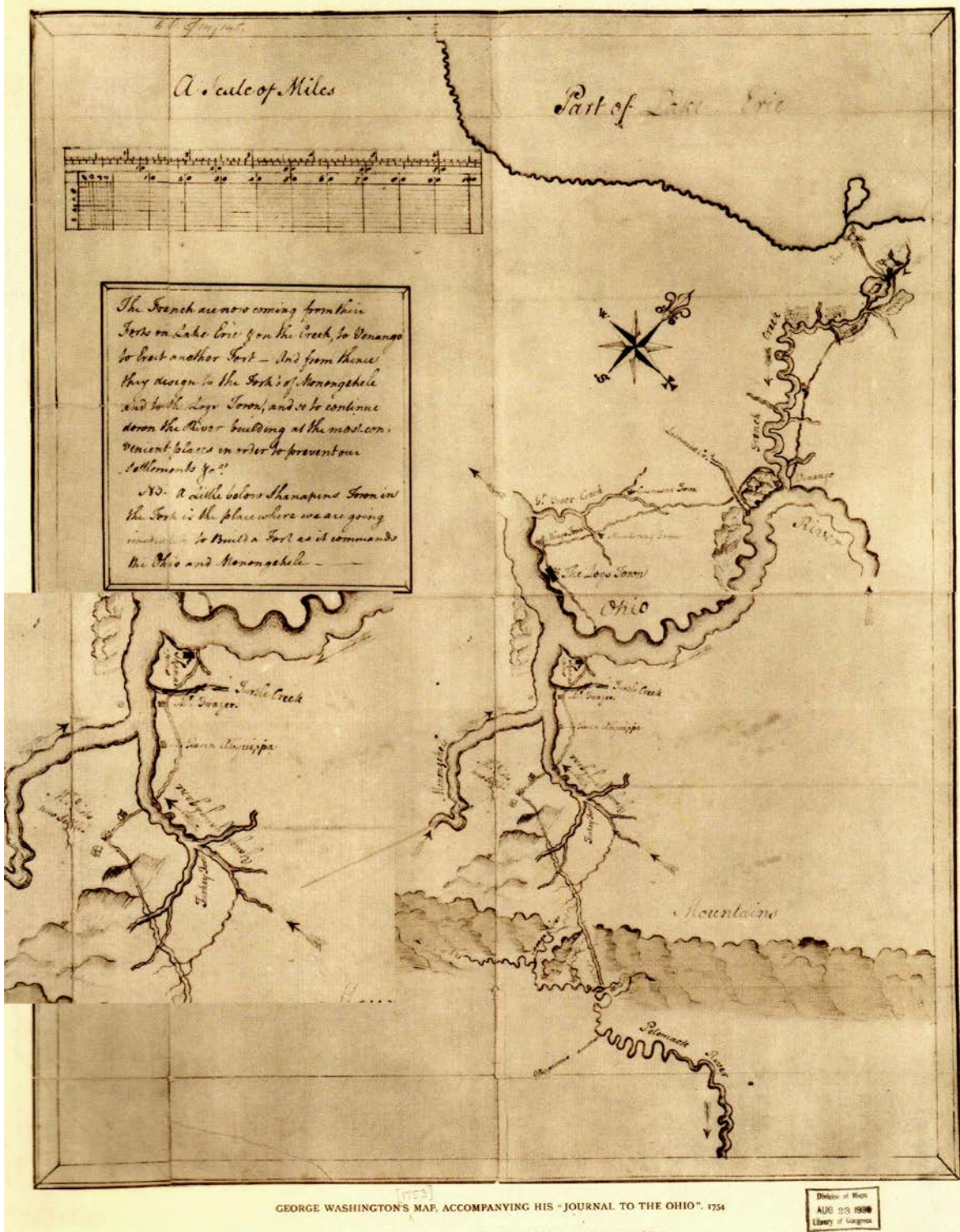


During his trip to the French fort at Watertown, Pennsylvania, George Washington and his party traveled almost exclusively over routes that had been established prior to his journey for trade, diplomacy, and military intelligence; his use did not establish a new use for the trail. Portions of the route from Waterford to the Forks of the Ohio were likely used by the French for their approach to Venengo, but that is outside of the survey's period of consideration. Significant portions of the route from Alexandria to the Great Meadows would be used later in 1754 for Washington's Fort Necessity campaign and in 1755 for Braddock's campaign. Even later, as part of the National Road, it would convey settlers to the Old Northwest and beyond, however those events lie outside of the survey's period of consideration.

*Is the route significant as a result of that historic use?*

Portions of the route are included in existing National Historic Landmarks (NHL). NHLs are nationally significant properties designated by the Secretary of the Interior. If all or part of an existing NHL contains resources directly associated with Washington's journey and have been documented as nationally significant for that association, then that portion of the route would share its national significance. Five segments of Washington's journey are included in existing NHLs: The Williamsburg NHL Historic District, the Alexandria NHL Historic District, the National Road, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Forks of the Ohio NHL. Specific places that are not roads or transportation features along the route that figure prominently in Washington (and Gist's) Journal will be covered in the analysis of Criterion 2.

The Williamsburg NHL Historic District is significant for its political associations from the 17th through the 18th centuries, including its association with George Washington, as well as for the 1920s preservation efforts undertaken there. The nomination is silent on the significance of the road networks within or outside of the district. The district includes a number of structures present during the period under study that are individually listed as NHLs: the Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Bruton Parish Church, the Wythe House, and the Peyton Randolph House. None of these properties have been documented as nationally significant because of their association with the route of Washington's journey in 1753.



George Washington's map accompanying his "Journal to the Ohio" 1754.

The Alexandria NHL Historic District is significant for its collection of late 18th and early 19th century structures, and for its layout on a uniform rectangular blocks in a grid pattern. It has an outstanding assemblage of Colonial and Federal period buildings built when it was the principal



seaport and commercial center of northern Virginia. A number of structures listed either as separate National Historic Landmarks (Gadsby's Tavern) or individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places are included in the boundary of the district. The nomination form is silent on the significance of the road network either within the district or linking the district to adjacent lands. Gadsby's Tavern is associated with George Washington's recruiting efforts for his 1754 expedition to Fort Necessity, and was quartered there when he received his commission as a Major on General Braddock's staff; however, both of those events occurred outside of the period of this survey.

The National Road NHL extends from Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia, Illinois. Its primary significance is documented as the conduit for Western expansion, for commerce, and for heritage tourism in the period 1811 – 1945. Portions of the Nemaquin Trail are included within its corridor and the documentation includes a discussion of Washington's 1753 journey. However, its documented period of significance lies outside of the time of Washington's journey and its national significance cannot be ascribed to his use of the route.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield was established in 1931 as a unit of the NPS to commemorate the fighting at Jumonville Glen and Fort Necessity that sparked the French and Indian War (1754–1763). The park includes a portion of the Braddock Road Trace which likely coincides with Washington's 1753 route. Its national register documentation references Washington's 1753 trip; however, its period of significance is from 1754 to 1937, which does not include the period that is the subject of this survey.

Forks of the Ohio NHL is significant for military and political events associated with control of the strategic key to the Ohio Valley from 1754 to 1790. It is also described as being of great importance in the American Revolution and the opening of the western frontier. Its nomination references the construction of the first British fort in 1754 "...on ground first chosen and described by young Lt. Col. George Washington." The nomination does not indicate the presence of any preserved portion of Washington's route through it. Moreover, its period of significance post-dates Washington's journey,

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the prehistory or history of their community (local significance), State (state significance), or the Nation (nationally significant, but do not meet the criteria or have not yet been nominated as a NHL). In addition to the properties listed as NHLs, there are 10 National Register Historic Districts and 19 individual properties listed on the NRHP that lie along the route that Washington took (Appendix 6). None are documented as having contributing resources associated with Washington's 1753–1754 journey; all are listed as having state or local significance. This list contains one property of direct relevance to this survey: the Vestals Gap Road and Lanesville Historic District.

The Vestals Gap Road and Lanesville Historic District in Loudon County, Virginia, contains a 0.6 mile segment of Vestal's Gap Road that was the primary thoroughfare between Alexandria, through the Blue Ridge and Vestal's Gap, to the Ohio Country. Built possibly as early as 1724, Washington used the route in his 1754 Fort Necessity campaign and the following year in Braddock's Campaign. Its use during Washington's 1753-1754 journey is not identified as contributing to the significance of the property.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> John Miler Associates. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Vestal's Gap Road and Lanesville Historic District*. 1999.

While the route was established by historic use in the most general of terms, no portion of the route has been identified by the NPS as having national significance for its association with Washington's journey in 1753. While the documentation for several of the properties reference the journey, including the National Road NHL, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Forks of the Ohio NHL, the designated period of significance for each of these postdate his passage through them in 1753. None have been documented as nationally significant for their associations with Washington's journey.

Conclusion: A National Historic Trail Feasibility Study would likely find that The Washington Trail – 1753 would not meet Criterion A as established by Washington's use from October 31, 1754 to January 16, 1754. Prior to those dates, most if not all of the route from Williamsburg to Fort LeBoeuf had been established and used for similar purposes. Washington's journey did not establish a new use for this route—he used it to reach the lands in the Ohio Valley, to conduct Indian diplomacy, conduct diplomacy with the French, and to gather intelligence about their movements and intentions. No properties that include a portion of the route have been identified by the NPS NHL or NRHP programs as possessing national significance for their association with Washington's journey in 1753.

## **CRITERION B: PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*(B) It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.*

National significance is determined through application of the criteria used to designate National Historic Landmarks (NHL). This requires that a proposed national historic trail must be “nationally significant with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, as have been delineated in the NHL Thematic Framework.” Of the Thematic Framework's eight major themes (each having several sub-themes), the survey team concluded that The Washington Trail – 1753 can be evaluated in relation to three major themes (and subsidiary sub-themes, which are discussed later in the text):

1. Peopling Places: encounters, conflict, and colonization; migration from outside and within
4. Shaping the Political Landscape: military institutions and activities
8. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community: expansionism and imperialism.

In addition to meeting national significance within one or more of these themes, the trail must satisfy at least one of six additional NHL criteria. Analysis of these criteria is discussed below.

National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and at least one of six additional criteria.

1. *That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.*

Washington's journal concentrates on three efforts: his diplomatic efforts with the Indians, diplomatic efforts with the French, and collection of military intelligence. All of these are associated with the opening events of the French and Indian War (1754–1763) and can be associated with the NHL themes of 1. Peopling Places: encounters, conflict, and colonization; 4. Shaping the Political Landscape: military institutions and activities; and 8. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community: expansionism and imperialism.

**Indian Diplomacy:** Washington's Indian diplomacy was designed to ensure that the Iroquois were not going to support the anticipated French incursion down to the Forks of the Ohio, and to discover the sympathies of the Ohio Indians (the Shawnee, the Delaware, and the Mingos). His appearance in his military uniform was likely designed to reassure them that the force of British arms was behind Dinwiddie's demand—despite the Iroquois' dubious opinion of British arms formed during the earlier French and Indian Wars. This mainly happened in two places, Logs Town and Venango, and to a much lesser degree at Fort LeBoeuf.

Logs Town as Washington found it had been established by the French in 1747 and by 1753 it had become an important trading and diplomatic center. It was where the Logstown Treaty of 1752 had been negotiated and it was there that Washington met with the Iroquois emissaries to the Ohio Indians, the "Half-King" Tanacharison, and the Oneida Scarouady (also known as Monakatoocha). It was there that Washington learned of the impending return of the Iroquois speech belt to the French and where he may have become aware of the anti-British posture that the Ohio Indians were forming. Washington learned that Tanacharison had already delivered the Iroquois' initial warning to the French to leave and that Tanacharison was preparing to return the speech belt signifying the end of peaceful relations with the French. He also learned that the Ohio Indians were reluctant or unwilling to commit to the British cause (they did not return their wampum belt to the French despite Washington's repeated encouragement).

At Venango, Washington and Gist found the French colors flying from the former home of a British trader and a contingent of French soldiers. There, his Iroquois escort met with the Delaware who refused to return their speech belt to the French. Tanacharison prevailed upon the French Indian emissary Captain Philippe –Thomas Chabert de Joncaire, to accept the return of the Iroquois belt making that part of his mission a success. The observations he made in his journal about the disposition of the tribes was prescient; in the coming conflict, the Iroquois remained mostly neutral while the Ohio Indians sided with the French during the first years of the war.

**French Diplomacy:** The objective goal of Washington's mission was to deliver Dinwiddie's letter and return with its reply. This happened at Fort LeBoeuf, where, along with the exchange of letters and the extension of ritual 18th-century pleasantries, Washington's diplomatic efforts were limited to inquiring about the status of English traders who the French had detained. At Venango he met with Philippe –Thomas Chabert de Joncaire, a prominent frontiersman in his own right and diplomat to the tribes whose mission, like Washington's, was to ensure that the tribes allied with the French remained so.

**Military Intelligence:** The military intelligence that Washington collected was instrumental in forming Dinwiddie's reaction to the French threat. At the Forks of the Ohio, Washington observed that the place that the Ohio Company had planned to build its fort was not ideal. At Logs Town he learned of the disposition along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers of French

fortifications and their strengths from four deserters. At Venango he gathered additional intelligence, freely given by the French officers, about the locations of French forts on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and how they were supplied from Canada (it was at Venango that the French had informed the Ohio Indians of their intentions to advance down the Ohio in the spring). At Fort LeBoeuf Washington observed the layout of the fort, the number of French troops that manned it, and how many cannons it had. More importantly, saw the 200-plus canoes that had been assembled for the imminent incursion into the Ohio Valley.

The larger context of Washington's journey outside of those three activities that happened at distinct places is more difficult to assess. His later military responsibilities undoubtedly benefited from the familiarity he obtained along the route of his journey about specific terrain, logistical challenges, the difficulties that would face movement of Colonial troops, of French troops, and the disposition of the tribes. The delivery of Dinwiddie's letter is recognized by historians as one of the opening events of the French and Indian War (1754–1763), but its significance as a single event has not been evaluated by a NHL theme study—nor has the French and Indian War(s) in general. The NPS currently recognizes the encounter at Jumonville Glen and the Battle of Fort Necessity as the sites of the opening battles. Absent such a theme study, it cannot be determined if resources associated with this event meet this criteria. Likewise, the individual places that Washington's route connects, especially the segments in Pennsylvania, relate to the NHL sub-theme "Historic Contact: Early Relations between Indian People and Colonists in Northeastern North America, 1524-1783." However, evaluations of those individual properties are beyond the scope of this survey.

Analysis of Washington's journey indicate that events that may contribute to national significance occurred at specific locations along the route of Washington's journey in 1753 and may be ascribed to those locations only and not to the entire route of The Washington Trail – 1753.

2. *That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States.*

Shaping George Washington's Career—George Washington's 1753–1754 journey to Western Pennsylvania marked the beginning of his public career and his preparation for military activity. This journey related to the NHL theme 4, Shaping the Political Landscape: military institutions and activities. He has been repeatedly recognized as a person whose life has been identified as nationally significant in the history of the United States.

George Washington's rough winter journey to the Ohio Valley introduced the unseasoned 21-year-old to the challenges that British-Americans faced in trying to counter French influence and undertake diplomacy with Indian tribes. Washington's perilous adventure across forested mountains and along icy rivers increased his confidence in his ability to overcome adverse physical conditions. In his journal, Washington, wrote that he had "a Constitution hardy enough to encounter and undergo the most severe tryals."<sup>16</sup>

During Washington's 1753–1754 expedition he gained significant experience in dealing with Governor Dinwiddie and negotiating with Native peoples and French military officers. He gained a reputation as a capable and perspicacious operative when the journal of his expedition was published in Virginia and London. This reputation was to serve him well and

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<sup>16</sup> Preston, *Braddock's Defeat*, p. 24.

helped secure positions of authority in the coming war. It also helped establish his preeminence in the American Revolution. The historian Stephen Brumwell has maintained that: “Washington had established his martial credentials a quarter of a century before, during another war, in which he had fought alongside the British against the French and their Indian allies . . . . The military reputation that the young Washington forged during four years of fighting on the frontiers of Virginia and Pennsylvania underpinned his subsequent selection as commander in chief of the fledgling Continental Army in 1775.”<sup>17</sup>

There are events associated with Washington’s 1753 journey that are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States, specifically George Washington. Other persons associated with the survey area may also, upon further study, be identified as nationally significant; Christopher Gist, Tanacharison, Monakatoocha (and other tribal members) and the Frenchmen Joncaire and Legardeur St. Pierre, all played prominent roles in Washington’s 1753 journey and in the French and Indian War (1754–1763). However, that evaluation is beyond the scope of this reconnaissance survey. Those events that may be associated “importantly” with Washington (and possibly others) occurred at specific places along the portion of the route between Logs Town and Fort LeBoeuf that are documented in his journal.

The Washington Trail – 1753 as a whole cannot be associated with events associated importantly with lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States and is unlikely to meet this NHL criterion for national significance if a Historic Trail Feasibility Study were authorized by Congress.

3. *That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people.*

This NHL criterion is not applicable to The Washington Trail – 1753.

4. *That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

This NHL criterion is not applicable to The Washington Trail – 1753.

5. *That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture.*

This NHL criterion is not applicable to The Washington Trail – 1753.

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<sup>17</sup> Brumwell, *George Washington*, p. 3.

6. *That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.*

Very few intact (undeveloped, or having archeological integrity) segments of Washington's original route have been identified; however, there are possible sites that may have been campsites or other sites of activity related to George Washington, troops of the British or French armies, or Indian Tribes who used the trail (the site of Logs Town, for example). These may contain archeological resources that could yield valuable information for understanding the life and activities of the different parties that lived and were active in Western Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania during the 1750s. These resources would be related to NHL themes 1. Peopling Places: encounters, conflict, and colonization; migration from outside and within; and 4. Shaping the Political Landscape: military institutions and activities. The Pennsylvania state site files indicate only two properties associated with Washington's journey have been the subject of archeological excavation: the sites of Logs Town and Fort LeBoeuf. Excavations in 1942 at the area supposed to be the location of Logs Town identified a pre-contact component, but did not identify any remains of the historic town. Today, extensive transportation infrastructure, industrial development, and modern housing cover the supposed site. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reports that at Logs Town any remains have been likely wiped away.<sup>18</sup> The Waterford National Register Historic District contains archeological resources that may be associated with Fort LeBoeuf, however, that ascription is not definitive. Neither Logs Town nor the Waterford National Register Historic district are listed on the NRHP for significant archeological resources dating to the period that is the subject of this survey.

It is possible that other archeological remains associated with the specific locations of significant events of Washington's journey exist, such as the site of Venango, Shannopin's, Fraziers, or the Ohio Company's developments at Wills Creek. However, none of these sites have been positively identified to date; they are likely to have been destroyed by subsequent development. Pending additional study and excavation, this criteria cannot be met at this time.

Conclusion: Analysis of Criterion B indicates that within the route of Washington's journey in 1753 that:

- There are events associated with Washington's journey that may have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained. However that significance cannot be ascribed to The Washington Trail –1753; possibly only to individual properties along the route.
- The Washington Trail – 1753 as a whole is not associated with events associated importantly with lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States and is unlikely to meet this NHL criterion for national significance if a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study were authorized by Congress. National significance may be ascribed to individual properties along the route.

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<sup>18</sup> A.D. Marble and Company. *Pennsylvania Archeological Data Synthesis: The Beaver Creek Watershed*. (Bridgeville, PA. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation).



- Washington’s journey in 1753 is unlikely to be associated with archeological properties that may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States at specific locations, and is unlikely to meet this criteria. At present no properties along the route or the route itself are recognized to possess intact archeological resources dating to Washington’s journey.

In summary, none of the NHL criteria for national significance may be met by The Washington Trail – 1753.

### **CRITERION C: PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE OR HISTORICAL INTEREST POTENTIAL**

*(C) It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.*

To assess Criterion C, the public recreational uses and sites of historical interest related to The Washington Trail – 1753, this survey examined existing “roadless segments developed as historic trails” and “historic sites associated with the trail” along with other sites potentially important for “public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation.” The inventoried sites (Appendix 6) are identified in either the 1753–1754 journal of George Washington or Christopher Gist. They illustrate aspects of the three historical themes related to The Washington Trail – 1753: (1) Opening events of the French and Indian War; (2) British and American Settlement of the Ohio Valley; (3) Shaping George Washington’s career.

The route of the trail passes through several publicly accessible parks, increasing the likelihood that historic segments could be identified and developed in the future. At Fort Necessity National Battlefield, the likely location of segments of Braddock’s Road, a road developed in 1754 that closely followed sections of the route that Washington traveled in 1753, has been identified.

In any case, due to the more than 250 years that have passed since the journey, the development that has occurred in many areas of the trail, including road development, and the little physical evidence that is likely to be found given the minor land disturbances made and evidence left from such a small traveling party, existing roadless segments of the 1753 trail are unlikely to be identified to any significant degree nor play a large role in the visitor experience of this trail. Reconstruction of segments along the likely route of the trail as well as events, such as the Cherry Pie Hike, taking place to commemorate the 1753 journey, are more likely to offer valuable trail opportunities.

The survey team conducted preliminary research for the sites mentioned in the journals of George Washington and Christopher Gist (Appendix 5.) None of the sites exist today as they did in 1753. However, Fort LeBoeuf archeological investigations in the future could provide opportunities for related visitor experiences at the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society and Museum. Likewise, archeological investigations at the site of Logs Town north of Pittsburgh may identify the frontier settlement that Washington visited. Additional research could also reveal more definitively the locations where George Washington stopped in the cities of Fredericksburg, Alexandria, and Winchester and determine if those sites exist today as they did in 1753.

Archeological and archival research at important related sites in the region of the trail from this time period could also provide interpretive material and tour opportunities. For example, although George Washington did not stop at Thomas Cresap's cabin at Oldtown, Maryland (in Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park) in 1753, according to his journal, Cresap's cabin "became a landmark and waypoint for Europeans traveling in western Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania," and was the location of archeological work by the National Park Service in 2008–2010.<sup>19</sup>

Additional research on the journal locations as well as other important sites of the mid-18th century in this region such as Cresap's fort, could provide not only clues to the 1753 route's location, activities undertaken along the journey, and preservation projects, but also unique visitor opportunities. Interpretive signs by existing roadways already provide useful background information at several of the journal sites. They provide a starting point for any future work to survey archeological sites. In addition, given that seven of the 18 locations are Indian sites and/or connected to the story of the Indian tribes in the region, further investigation in consultation with tribal representatives could fill gaps in the current understanding of the roles and relationships of the various tribes living in the Ohio Country region in 1753.

The survey has grouped the 46 identified resources (in Appendix 6) under four categories: (1) sites related to George Washington's 1753 expedition and the beginning of the French and Indian War—15 sites; (2) sites related to the broader French and Indian War, the British-American settlement of the Ohio Valley, and the early career of George Washington—18 sites; (3) commemorative sites—five sites; (4) commemorative events—eight events. This study identified 27 related sites and events in Pennsylvania, 16 in Virginia, two in Maryland, and one in West Virginia for a total of 46 sites and events (The entire list is included in Appendix 6). The largest number of resources is located in Western Pennsylvania, where George Washington's activities directly influenced the beginnings of the French and Indian War.

The wide array of sites and events related to The Washington Trail – 1753 presents promising opportunities for interpretation and visitor appreciation. There are 15 sites related to George Washington's 1753 expedition and the beginning of the French and Indian War. The Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society and Museum, in Waterford, PA, interprets the encounter of George Washington with French Army officers at the northernmost point of his 1753 expedition to the Ohio Valley. French Creek, which winds through Waterford, provides visitors a sense of Washington's journey in this part of the country. There were three iterations of Fort LeBoeuf—the 1753 French-built fort, the 1760 British fort, and the 1796 American fort. Archeological excavations at Fort LeBoeuf have identified charred logs and timbers believed to be part of the fort. This site has potential for further archeological discoveries. The sites of other forts erected by the French and British, including Fort Presque Isle, Erie, PA, and Fort Venango, Franklin, PA, have historical markers and have the potential to provide archeological finds. The Fort Presque Isle site includes a reconstructed block house. The site of Logs Town, an Indian village that Washington visited in 1753, also has a historical marker and has potential for an archeological survey.

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<sup>19</sup> John Bedell, "Thomas Cresap and Maryland's Colonial Frontier," The Louis Berger Group, Inc. for the NPS Archeology Program: Research in the Parks webpage. <https://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites/cnocresap.htm>

Two portions of Washington's route have been marked for the public; The Washington Trail – 1753, and the French Creek Water Trail. The Washington Trail – 1753 driving tour route has been laid out by Western Pennsylvania tourist organizations and others, starting at Fort Necessity National Battlefield just north of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border and ending at the site of Fort Presque Isle in Erie, PA. Established in 2000, the trail is marked with distinctive signage, and an associated cell phone tour. Portions of the French Creek Water Trail follows the water route of Washington and Gist's return journey from just south of Fort Le Beouf to Venango, Pennsylvania, a distance of 22 miles. It is managed by the French Creek Conservancy and provides access to landscapes similar to those that Washington traversed.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield is the site of the first battle of the French and Indian War (1754), at which George Washington commanded the British troops. Fort Necessity interprets not only the battle that took place there in 1754, but the mission of George Washington the previous year and the subsequent 1755 expedition of General Braddock, which resulted in defeat by the French and their Indian allies.

The historical context of George Washington's French and Indian War involvement in Western Pennsylvania is interpreted at the Fort Pitt Museum and Block House and the Senator John Heinz History Center, both in Pittsburgh. Braddock's Battlefield History Center in Braddock, PA, which is located at the site of the 1755 "Braddock's Defeat," is where George Washington distinguished himself in the midst of an ambush by French and Indian fighters. The street plan and buildings of Old Town Winchester, VA, allow the visitor to imagine the scene of George Washington's visit there on his way to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753.

There are 18 sites related to the broader French and Indian War, the British-American settlement of the Ohio Valley, and the early career of George Washington. Several sites in Virginia tell the story of George Washington's pre-Revolutionary War career—George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Colonial Beach; George Washington's Ferry Farm (home after 1738), Fredericksburg; Washington's home at Mount Vernon (built 1759); Governor's Palace and the Powder Magazine at Colonial Williamsburg. The old town of Little Washington, VA, which was surveyed by George Washington in 1749 and retains the original layout, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. George Washington's Office Museum is located in Winchester, where he built Fort Loudon (archeological site) in 1756 to protect the Shenandoah Valley during the French and Indian War. George Washington's Headquarters at Fort Cumberland, MD, was built as a military post in 1755 to protect Maryland and Virginia. George Washington's younger brother Charles built a home in Fredericksburg in 1760. It later became known as the Rising Sun Tavern and is open as a museum today.

Fort Ligonier, in Ligonier, PA, is a full-scale reconstruction of the 1758 fort that the British built to support the Forbes Expedition that captured the French fort at the Ohio Forks, Fort Duquesne. George Washington participated in this expedition. The Frontier Culture Museum, in Staunton, VA, is a living history museum that uses six historic farms to interpret the colonial frontier history of the 18th century.

The five commemorative sites related to The Washington Trail – 1753 include public artwork (statues and a mural) and artists' studios. Meticulously researched interpretive artwork by Robert Griffing (studio, Gibsonia, PA) of Washington's activities in Western Pennsylvania is displayed at Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Farmington, PA, and even at a local restaurant. A mural by Deac Mong depicting George Washington's 1753 expedition is exhibited in a courtroom at the Venango County Court House in Franklin, PA. The artwork of John Buxton, which depicts the 18th-century Western Pennsylvania frontier, is displayed at various sites in the region. The statue of George Washington in Waterford, PA, was erected by the citizens of this community in 1922. This unique statue depicts him wearing a British uniform.

The eight events, all taking place in the survey area region, include re-enactments, hikes, community festivals, and history conferences. Festivals include the French and Indian War Encampment at Cook Forest State Park, PA, the French and Indian War Weekend, and the Cherry Pie Hike at Slippery Rock, PA. Annual history conferences include the Ohio County Conference and the Braddock Road Preservation Association Seminar. Such events complement the visitor experience provided at museums, visitor centers, and reconstructed forts. At conferences, the general public and scholars share research and disseminate historical knowledge. The recreational activity, local engagement, and educational programming spread the story and the themes of Washington's 1753 journey beyond the museum walls to a wider audience.

In addition to Fort Necessity National Battlefield, portions of The Washington Trail – 1753 route lie within five nationally designated entities: the National Road Heritage Corridor, Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, the North Country Scenic Trail, the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area. Only the National Road Heritage Corridor interprets the use of portions of the trail of Washington's 1753 journey in the context of his military expeditions in 1754 and later.

The Washington Trail – 1753 Steering Committee is a grass-roots alliance of heritage preservation organizations with ties to resources associated with his 1753–54 journey. In addition to the Federal entities above, it includes the Allegheny Trail Alliance, the Beaver County Historical Research & Landmark Foundation, the Braddock Road Preservation Association, the Butler County (PA) Tourism & Convention Bureau, the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society & Museum, Fort Ligonier, the Heinz History Center, and the Ohio River Trail Council. These, and the stewards of the heritage and recreation properties identified earlier, are potential partners for a National Historic Trail project.

In conclusion, the reconnaissance survey found that The Washington Trail – 1753 study area contained an extensive array of historic, educational, and recreational resources and opportunities directly related to Washington’s journey, and would likely meet this criterion if a Historic Trail Feasibility Study is authorized by Congress.







## Part 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

Since this report is a reconnaissance survey, the findings are provisional. Further study would be required to provide a definitive response to the National Historic Trail criteria. In any case, this reconnaissance survey finds that the proposed Washington's Trail – 1753 is unlikely to meet the first two National Historic Trail criterion, and that it likely meets the third.

To qualify for designation as a national historic trail, a trail must meet all three of the criteria:

*Criterion A: It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use. The route need not currently exist as a discernible trail to qualify, but its location must be sufficiently known to permit evaluation of public recreation and historical interest potential. A designated trail should generally accurately follow the historic route, but may deviate somewhat on occasion of necessity to avoid difficult routing through subsequent development, or to provide some route variations offering a more pleasurable recreational experience. Such deviations shall be so noted on site. Trail segments no longer possible to travel by trail due to subsequent development as motorized transportation routes may be designated and marked onsite as segments which link to the historic trail.*

A National Historic Trail Feasibility Study would likely find that it would not meet Criterion A as established by Washington's use from October 31, 1753 to January 16, 1754. Prior to those dates, most if not all of the route from Williamsburg to Fort LeBoeuf had been established and used for similar purposes. Washington's journey did not establish a new use for this route. No properties that include a portion of the route have been identified by the National Park Service as possessing national significance by their association with Washington's journey in 1753. For these reasons, this reconnaissance survey finds that The Washington Trail – 1753 is unlikely to meet Criterion A, should a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study be authorized by Congress.

*Criterion B: It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.*

Analysis of Criterion B indicates that The Washington Trail – 1753 as a whole is unlikely to be found nationally significant with respect to the three themes selected for study: Peopling Places, Shaping the Political Landscape, and Changing Role of the United States in the World Community. Analysis indicates that individual properties along The Washington Trail – 1753 are likely to be associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States under those themes; specifically George Washington. For these reasons, this reconnaissance survey finds that The Washington Trail – 1753 is unlikely to meet Criterion B, should a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study be authorized by Congress.

*Criterion C: It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.*

The reconnaissance survey found that The Washington Trail – 1753 study area contained an extensive array of historic, educational, and recreational resources and opportunities directly related to Washington’s journey, and would likely meet this criterion, should a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study be authorized by Congress.

Because the survey area is unlikely to meet two of the three Congressionally mandated criteria to be eligible for inclusion into the National Trail System as a Historic Trail, the National Park Service can not recommend to Congress that a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study be authorized.

The survey team found that the portion of the route detailed in Washington’s (and Gist’s) journal, from Cumberland, Maryland to Waterford, New York, possessed a higher concentration of resources directly associated with his journey and corresponding public educational and recreational opportunities than the other segments. The NPS applauds the work of The Washington Trail – 1753 Organizing Committee and its member organizations to bring the story of this era of the American experience to the public.



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## APPENDIXES

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# Appendix 1: Request for Reconnaissance Survey

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE KELLY  
THIRD DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

CO-CHAIRMAN OF  
NORTHEAST-MIDWEST CAUCUS

CO-CHAIRMAN OF  
KOREAN CAUCUS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

DH  
2/20

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Jon Jarvis  
National Park Service  
Director, U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am writing to request that the National Park Service (NPS) undertake a Reconnaissance Survey to identify the nationally significant route and resources associated with the Washington Trail-1753, and to determine whether the corridor merits future designation as a National Historic Trail.

NPS is currently working with the trail partners by providing technical assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. As a Member of Congress from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and whose congressional district includes a considerable portion of this historic route, I believe a Reconnaissance Survey is critical to the local partnership as it advances its work in developing the trail through Western Pennsylvania, into Maryland and Virginia.

Washington's Trail-1753 is a project formed to commemorate the route taken by George Washington as he carried a diplomatic message through French-controlled territory in Western Pennsylvania ordering the French to abandon their posts and forts or otherwise confront the British Empire's military. The trail commemorates this journey by Washington and is an important historical resource in the understanding and interpretation of the onset of the Battle for Empire – the French and Indian War – and the roots of the American Revolution. Plans for the trail include signage, both road markers and interpretative, along with a driving and hiking route. Some of this work is already underway and being implemented by a non-profit organization in my district. The intent is for the trail to become a part of the growing trail network in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States and complement the Great Allegheny Passage and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail.

The first phase, focusing on Western Pennsylvania (which this application is addressing), crosses through two National Heritage Areas – Oil Region National Heritage Area and Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area – along with several Pennsylvania State Heritage Areas (Route 6, Lincoln Highway, and the National Road), adding invaluable historical context to the history, culture, and heritage of this region. While existing in the rural landscape of Western

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101 EAST DIAMOND STREET  
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BUTLER, PA 16001  
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33 CHESTNUT AVENUE  
SHARON, PA 16146  
TEL: (724) 342-7170  
FAX: (724) 342-7242

Pennsylvania, the proposed trail route would traverse the region's urban populations including Pittsburgh and its expanding suburbs to the north and east of the city. The trail will bring added recreational, interpretive, educational, and environmental benefits to this region and exist in partnership with nearby heritage areas.

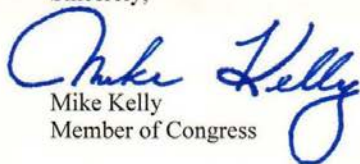
The Washington's Trail-1753 would enhance opportunities for tourism and economic development that results from increased visitation and spending. It will provide opportunities for improved quality of life in places that might lack access to recreation, particularly in the urban and suburban areas of Pittsburgh and its growth areas in the north and east. The Trail will also provide greater educational opportunities for these underserved populations – particularly urban youth – to learn about NPS, our nation's history, our surrounding environment, and hopefully provide a means for these youth to become more involved in conserving their state's heritage. As the National Park Service looks toward its second century, the need to expand public-private partnerships to protect and conserve America's heritage becomes increasingly important. The Washington's Trail-1753 will help expand these partnership opportunities for NPS into Western Pennsylvania and build upon its successes with the Oil Region National Heritage Area and the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area by fostering greater community involvement in the development of the trail.

The Reconnaissance Survey will help further explore options for commemorating and interpreting this significant aspect of our nation's history and heritage. An opportunity exists to preserve this history, to build community pride, to connect communities, promote economic revitalization, and create jobs while telling this story of George Washington and the birth of our nation. With NPS's expertise and assistance, the significant resources along the route can be considered along with those options and strategies for coordinating the multi-state effort that is forming along the proposed trail. The Reconnaissance Survey will provide the Washington Trail-1753 partnership with a solid foundation for developing this regional and national asset.

I am respectfully requesting that, with your direction and approval of this Reconnaissance Survey, the National Park Service assemble and lead a team that engages experts, the states, communities, National Parks, National Trails, National Heritage Areas, and local partners along the route. I would like to have NPS guide this discussion and project and report to me by June 2016.

Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this request in further detail.

Sincerely,

  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



## **Appendix 2: Project Team Members and Contributors**

### **Northeast Region**

Allen H. Cooper, Program Analyst, Park Planning & Special Studies

James C. O'Connell, PhD, Community Planner, Park Planning & Special Studies

Hannah Blake, Community Planner, Park Planning & Special Studies (Detail)

Peggy Pings, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

Christine Arato, Chief Historian, Northeast Region

Bonnie Halda, National Historic Landmarks Program

Amanda Casper, National Historic Landmarks Program

### **Intermountain Region**

Aaron Mahr, Superintendent, National Trails Intermountain Region Office

### **WASO**

Rita Hennessy, Program Lead, National Trails System

Cherri Espersen, Program Analyst, Park Planning and Special Studies Division

Patrick Gregerson, Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies Division

Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Assistant Coordinator, National Heritage Areas Program

Karen Mudar, Archeologist and Archeology E-Gram Editor

Joe Watkins, PhD, American Indian Liaison Officer; Chief, Tribal Relations & American Cultures; Supervisory Cultural Anthropologist

### **Appendix 3: List of Organizations in Pennsylvania Supporting Development of The Washington Trail – 1753**

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

Oil Region Alliance

Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor

National Road Heritage Corridor

Allegheny Trail Alliance

Beaver County Historical Research & Landmark Foundation

Braddock Road Preservation Association

Butler County (PA) Tourism & Convention Bureau

Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society & Museum

Fort Ligonier

Heinz History Center

Ohio River Trail Council

#### **Appendix 4: List of Scholars, Librarians, and Other Experts Consulted for This Survey**

Eric Benson, Digital Resources Manager, George Washington's Mount Vernon

Matt Briney, Vice President, New Media, George Washington's Mount Vernon

Kurt Carr, Senior Curator of Archeology for the Pennsylvania State Museum

Roland Duhaime, Northeast Region NPS Field Technical Support Center Coordinator,  
Environmental Data Center, University of Rhode Island

Cassandra Farrell, Senior Map Archivist, Library of Virginia

Sierra R. Green, Archivist, Heintz History Center

Ronald E. Grim, Curator of Maps, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library

Margaret Pritchard, formerly with Colonial Williamsburg, co-author of *Degrees of Latitude: Mapping Colonial America*

Ed Redmond, Specialist, Cartographic Reference and Curator, Vault Collections, Library Congress,  
Geography and Map Division

Katherine Grayson Wilkins, Development Director, Journey Through Hallowed Ground  
Partnership

William Wooldridge, author of *Mapping Virginia: From the Age of Exploration to the Civil War*

Matthew A. Zimmerman, Associate Professor of History, Middle Georgia State University

**Appendix 5: List of Places that Washington and Gist Visited  
on their 1753–1754 Journey - Sites on the route  
(listed as they appeared in the journals)**

Location – as written in the Journal(s)	Current Location Name	Journal Author(s)	Site/Geographic Reference Description [from footnote in Kopper (1) unless otherwise noted]	Mentioned on the journey north and/or south	Kopper (1) Page Reference
Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg, Virginia	George Washington	Fredericksburg's first grid plan was drawn up in 1721, and in 1727, the settlement received an official charter from the House of Burgesses and was named in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales. The organization of the town coincided with the upswing in the plantation economy as the town served as an inspection point for the tobacco industry and trading center along the Rappahannock River. The Rising Sun Tavern was one of the earliest ordinaries in Fredericksburg. [http://www.fredericksburgva.gov/index.aspx?NID=202 (2)]	North	Page 3
Alexandria	Alexandria, Virginia	George Washington	To facilitate export of crops and import of manufactured products, merchants petitioned the Virginia General Assembly in 1749 to establish a town near a tobacco warehouse on the Potomac River. John West, Fairfax County surveyor, laid out 60 acres (by tradition, assisted by 17-year-old George Washington), and lots were auctioned off in July 1749. During the mid-1750s, the town was a staging area for British troops involved in the French and Indian War (1754–1763). English General Braddock made his headquarters in Alexandria and occupied the Carlyle House while planning his campaign against the French in 1755. [https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=29540 (3)]	North	Page 3

Location – as written in the Journal(s)	Current Location Name	Journal Author(s)	Site/Geographic Reference Description [from footnote in Kopper (1) unless otherwise noted]	Mentioned on the journey north and/or south	Kopper (1) Page Reference
Winchester	Winchester, Virginia	George Washington	<a href="#">Founded in 1744, Winchester is the oldest Virginia City west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In the mid-1700s, Frederick County became the military and political training ground for George Washington, who came here at the age of 16 to survey the lands of Thomas, the Sixth Lord of Fairfax. Washington built Fort Loudoun during the French and Indian War (1754–1763) and, at 26, was elected to his first public office as the county's representative to the House of Burgesses.</a> <a href="http://www.winchesterva.gov/winchester-history">http://www.winchesterva.gov/winchester-history</a> AND <a href="http://oldtownwinchesterva.com/about-old-town/history/">http://oldtownwinchesterva.com/about-old-town/history/</a> (4)]	North	Page 3
Christopher Gist's House – Wills' Creek	Cumberland, Maryland	George Washington and Christopher Gist	Cumberland, Maryland. Later the site of Fort Cumberland, Wills' Creek was considered by colonists to be the gateway to the Alleghenies. The creek was named for an Indian, "who with his family and a few followers remained in the land of their fathers ... despite the approach of the white man." [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Pages 6 and 37
Christopher Gist's (house in the) new settlement; Mr. Gist's at Monongahela	Mount Braddock, PA	George Washington and Christopher Gist	In the fall of 1752, Gist settled at the mouth of Chartiers Creek (Mt. Braddock, Pennsylvania). The Ohio Company sponsored the venture, which became the "first settlement on the Ohio." Today, a historical marker is located along route 119. [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Pages 5, 6, and 37
Jacob's Cabins	Vicinity of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania	Christopher Gist	Washington and Gist likely crossed the Youghiooghenny River near present-day Connellsville, Pennsylvania. Located within the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, Jacob's cabin belonged to Captain Jacob, a Delaware chief. [Kopper (1)]	North	Page 6
Mr. (John) Fraziers (mouth of Turtle Creek on the Monongahela)	North Braddock, Pennsylvania	George Washington and Christopher Gist	John Fraser (d. c. 1773) A Pennsylvania Indian trader and gunsmith of German descent, Fraser holds the distinction of being one of the first English traders to settle west of the Allegheny Mountains. [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Pages 3, 33, and 37

Location – as written in the Journal(s)	Current Location Name	Journal Author(s)	Site/Geographic Reference Description [from footnote in Kopper (1) unless otherwise noted]	Mentioned on the journey north and/or south	Kopper (1) Page Reference
Shannopin's (Shannopin's town)	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (between Penn Avenue and the Allegheny River)	George Washington and Christopher Gist	The Delaware constructed Shannopin's Town during the 1730s. They named the village in honor of Chief Shannopin, a leader who sought to stop the calamitous impact of alcohol on his tribe. [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Pages 5, 32, and 37
Lives Shingiss – We called upon him	Near McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania	George Washington	Although Shingiss lived in other locations in Western, Pennsylvania, according to Lawrence A. Orrill in "Christopher and His Sons" (page 13), he was "then living on the south side of the Ohio River, a short distance below the mouth of Chartiers Creek (this location is now known as the Indian Mound at McKees Rock, Pennsylvania)." [Orrill (5)]	North	Page 4
Loggstown and council house/long house	Ambridge, Pennsylvania	George Washington	Established in 1725. Logs Town was the administrative center of the Ohio Country prior to the construction of a fort at the forks of the Ohio River. [Kopper (1)]	North	Loggstown (spelled with two "g's" in the journal) (Pages 4 and 5) and council house/long house (Pages 11 and 17)
Murthering Town or Murdering town	Conway, Pennsylvania	Christopher Gist (Murthering Town) and George Washington (Murdering Town)	According to Washington's map his part departed Logs Town traveling north along the Ohio River until they reached an Indian village known as Mingo Town (present-day Conway, Pennsylvania). From there the diplomats veered northeast traveling through the Cranberry, Pennsylvania, areas before arriving at their first camp at Murthering Town. Murthering Town or Murdering Town was a collection of villages extending along Connoquenessing Creek between Evans City, Pennsylvania, and Harmony, Pennsylvania. The origin of the name is unknown. [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Page 19, 32, and 35



Location – as written in the Journal(s)	Current Location Name	Journal Author(s)	Site/Geographic Reference Description [from footnote in Kopper (1) unless otherwise noted]	Mentioned on the journey north and/or south	Kopper (1) Page Reference
<i>Traveled on the road to Venango (town of Venango). We found the French colours hoisted at a house from which they had driven Mr. Frazier, an English subject.</i>	Franklin, Pennsylvania	George Washington and Christopher Gist	Franklin, Pennsylvania. The word “Venango” means “a mink” in the Delaware language. In 1753, the French forced English traders, most notably John Fraser, to vacate their settlements at Venango, after which the French constructed Fort Machault. [Kopper (1)]	North and south	Pages 8, 11, 15, 17, 19, 28, 29, and 30
Cussewago, an old Indian town	Meadville, Pennsylvania	Christopher Gist	Cussewago, which means “the snake with a big belly,” was primarily inhabited by Delawares, but Senecas lived in the village as well. Custaloga, a Delaware chief, is credited with being the leader of the village. [Kopper (1)]	North	Page 23
French fort (also listed as simply “fort”)	Waterford, Pennsylvania	Christopher Gist and George Washington	Fort LeBoeuf was designed to protect against raiding parties and used primarily as staging and warehouse depots, but planned in the European style and could not have been taken by anything but a massive effort on the part of a well-supplied army. It was manned by a minimum of 150 men. [ <a href="http://fortleboeufhistory.com/history-campus/flb-museum/">http://fortleboeufhistory.com/history-campus/flb-museum/</a> (6)]	North and south	Pages 6, 20, 21, 22, and 23
Up about three miles to the mouth of Yohogany, to visit Queen Alliquippa	The junction of the Monongahela and the Youghiogheny Rivers, near McKeesport, Pennsylvania	George Washington and Christopher Gist	Queen Alliquippa and her followers lived in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and resided in several places in the area. Distinguished French and British travelers visited the queen and offered her presents. Alliquippa, Pennsylvania, was named in honor of this important Indian leader. [Kopper (1)]	South	Pages 34 and 37
Indian cabin	Found no reference	Christopher Gist	None	South	Page 34

Location – as written in the Journal(s)	Current Location Name	Journal Author(s)	Site/Geographic Reference Description [from footnote in Kopper (1) unless otherwise noted]	Mentioned on the journey north and/or south	Kopper (1) Page Reference
Belvoir	Fort Belvoir	George Washington	Fort Belvoir, Virginia. George Washington was more than likely visiting the estate of William Fairfax, a prominent Virginia planter and politician. (Kopper) William Fairfax, who built Belvoir, which was completed in 1741, was at various times Collector of Customs, land agent for his cousin Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax, and President of the Governor's Council in Williamsburg. The manor home's archeological site is located within the present boundaries of Fort Belvoir, a United States Army installation. [ <a href="http://www.belvoir.army.mil/history/18C.asp">http://www.belvoir.army.mil/history/18C.asp</a> (7)]	South	Page 38
Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Virginia	George Washington	The area which became Williamsburg was settled in 1638 and called Middle Plantation, for its location on the high ground about halfway across the southernmost coastal peninsula in Virginia. After the second fire at Jamestown, the colonial capital was permanently moved to Middle Plantation in 1699 and renamed Williamsburg in honor of King William III of England. In 1722, the town of Williamsburg was granted a royal charter as a city, now believed to be the oldest in the United States. [ <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Williamsburg,_Virginia">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Williamsburg,_Virginia</a> (8)]	South	Page 38

1. Kevin Kopper, ed., *The Journals of George Washington and Christopher Gist: Mission to Fort LeBoeuf, 1753–1754* (Slippery Rock, PA: Slippery Rock University, Old Stone House Series 5, 2009)
2. City of Fredericksburg, Virginia website, history page (<http://www.fredericksburgva.gov/index.aspx?NID=202>) including Settlement to Society 1607-1750 section (<http://www.fredericksburgva.gov/index.aspx?NID=776>) and Colony to Nation: 1750-1789 section (<http://www.fredericksburgva.gov/index.aspx?NID=202>)
3. City of Alexandria, Virginia website
4. City of Winchester and Old Town Winchester websites
5. Christopher Gist and His Sons, from a paper read at a meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania on January 26, 1932 by Lawrence A. Orrill
- Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society website
7. Fort Belvoir website
8. History of Williamsburg, Virginia Wikipedia page

**Appendix 6: Sites Related to George Washington's Activities,  
1753–1763 - Sites Related to Washington's 1753 and Early French  
and Indian War Activities in the Trail Region**

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Senator John Heinz History Center	1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222	Pennsylvania	An affiliate of the Smithsonian and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, the museum focuses on the history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. The History Center's Library and Archives also houses the Center for the Study of the French and Indian War of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.	Broad 250-year history of Pittsburgh and Western PA
Fort Pitt Museum and Block House (part of the Heinz History Center)	601 Commonwealth Place, Building B, Point State Park, Pittsburgh, PA 15222	Pennsylvania	Exhibits focus on the history of the French and Indian War and the events of that time period.	French and Indian War and that era
Fort Necessity National Battlefield	1 Washington Parkway, Farmington, PA 15437	Pennsylvania	Exhibits, cultural landscapes, tavern, grave site, and reproduction fort tell the story of the Battle of Fort Necessity, the first battle of the French and Indian War in the summer of 1774, the first major event of the military career of George Washington.	Battle of Fort Necessity, French and Indian War, and background in the region

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society and Museum (FLB History Campus)	P.O. Box 622, Waterford, PA 16441	Pennsylvania	Site of French Fort visited by Washington on eve of French and Indian War includes museum exhibits covering history of fort and time period. Administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Archeological investigations have uncovered charred logs and timbers and remnants of a corduroy to Presque Isle.	French history and presence in the region around the time of the French and Indian War
Braddock's Battlefield History Center	609 Sixth Street, North Braddock, PA 15104	Pennsylvania	Located where the Battle began, the Center commemorates the Battle of Monongahela or "Braddock's Defeat" on July 9, 1755 at the beginning of the French and Indian War. The museum contains a collection of artifacts and art work about the Braddock Expedition of British General Edward Braddock, battle and the time period in the region.	Braddock Expedition and the Battle of Monongahela
Venango County Historical Society	307 South Park Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323	Pennsylvania	VCHS includes a model of a frontier fort one of several in the region. Washington was sent to convince the French to abandon their forts in the Ohio Country in 1753.	Military/fort development in the Ohio Country. Franklin, formerly named Venango, is an important stop along Washington's 1753 route to Fort LeBoeuf.
Custaloga Town Scout Reservation	7 Boy Scout Lane, Carlton, PA 16311	Pennsylvania	One of two burial sites believed to be Guyasuta, who died	Presumed Indian burial ground; future

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
			in 1810 and was one of the expedition escorts in 1753. NOTE: A different resting place has been identified along the Ohio River.	archeological site in 2016.
Bicentennial Park and David Mead Log Cabin along French Creek	French Street, Meadville. PA 16335	Pennsylvania	Location of replica of David Mead's cabin, the first permanent settlement in northwestern Pennsylvania; kayak/canoe launch area for French Creek.	Colonial settlement, 18th-century frontier building construction, and French Creek historic landscape.
Upper and Lower French Creek Water Trails	Various sites along French Creek from Waterford (Fort LeBoeuf in 1753) to Franklin (Venango in 1753)	Pennsylvania	Upper (Waterford to Meadville) and Lower (Meadville to Franklin) French Creek Water Trails are both important segments to the story of Washington's 1753 visit to the area. Washington is said to have named French Creek in the early 1750s.	George Washington's return journey from Fort LeBoeuf in 1753, partially by water, and the weather hardships.
Three Rivers Water Trail	Various sites along the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers near Pittsburgh, PA	Pennsylvania	The water trail identifies launch locations and sites of interest including Washington's Crossing, where "in 1753, 21-year old George Washington nearly drowned while crossing the icy river on his first military mission, after delivering a message to the French to vacate the Ohio Country"	George Washington's return journey from Fort LeBoeuf in 1753, partially by water, and the weather hardships.
Washington's Trail 1753 Driving Tour	Various sites along the auto route from Fort Necessity just north of the PA border with	Pennsylvania	The auto route follows as closely as possible to presumed route, based primarily on research	George Washington's expedition in 1753 through the frontier



Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
	Maryland to the site of Fort de la Presque'isle in Erie, PA		by Paul Wallace. The route provides access to not only sites interpreting the 1753 event and background but also the landscape and geography of western Pennsylvania's rural areas.	of today's Western, PA in 1753.
George Washington's Headquarters	38 Green Street, Cumberland, MD (21502, N 39 degrees 38.972 W 078 degrees 45.885)	Maryland	A log cabin that was part of Fort Cumberland that served as George Washington's headquarters. It is part of the Fort Cumberland Trail which include a series of markers/exhibits that identify the fort and its history.	French and Indian War history in Maryland, Fort Cumberland, and George Washington's role in the war.
George Washington's Office Museum	32 W. Cork Street, Winchester, VA 22601	Virginia	Between September 1755 and December 1756, Washington kept an office in this small log cabin (now a room in the museum building) while he supervised the construction of Fort Loudoun. Original Fort Loudoun cannon on premises, survey equipment, and period artifacts. (Excerpt from the Virginia tourism website.)	Military (French and Indian War) context and current exhibit "George Washington and the West" exhibit and personal survey equipment.

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Old Town Winchester	Winchester, VA 22601	Virginia	Winchester is the oldest settlement west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and founded in 1744. It is a place through which Washington traveled on his 1753 journey and from where he planned and constructed Fort Loudon. Old Town Winchester today is part of a 45-block National Register Historic District. Visitors can experience the downtown through the “Walking Washington” app.	Washington's history on the colonial frontier in the year's prior to the French and Indian War. Winchester's role as a strategic military location for colonial Virginia.
Fort Loudon (Virginia)	419 N. Loudon Street, Winchester, VA 22601	Virginia	Fort Loudon was the site of Washington's regimental headquarters during the French and Indian War. On-going archeological investigations have uncovered intact period deposits including part of the barrack's foundation, as well as numerous artifacts. Washington oversaw the digging of a 103-foot-deep well, in 1757, that still exists at the site. (Excerpt from Visit Winchester website.)	French and Indian War history and George Washington's role in the design and construction of the site.

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
<b>Sites Generally Related to George Washington and the French and Indian War</b>				
Fort Ligonier	200 S. Market Street, Ligonier, PA 15658	Pennsylvania	The site includes a full-scale reconstruction of Fort Ligonier, a British fortification from the French and Indian War serving as a staging area for the Forbes Expedition of 1758. Also on-site are a museum providing background for the French and Indian War and events leading up to the war and visitor amenities.	Forbes Expedition, French and Indian War, George Washington, Ohio Country history
Bushy Run Battlefield	1253 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644	Pennsylvania	The Bushy Run Battlefield website describes it as “the only historic site or museum that deals exclusively with Pontiac’s War, one of the most significant Native American conflicts in American History.” “The British victory helped to keep the ‘gateway to western expansion’ open.”	Indian-European relations and British settlement in the mid-18th century western frontier.

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Fort Loudon	1720 North Brooklyn Road, Fort Loudon PA 17224 (although off the trail it is close enough to provide valuable interpretation for interested visitors)	Pennsylvania	Although this was not the Fort Loudon planned by George Washington (which was located in Winchester, VA), Fort Loudon, located in a town in Pennsylvania with the same name, was a British fort built in 1756. Archeological digs began in 1980 to locate the exact site of the fort and a reconstruction of the fort was begun.	French and Indian War history in Pennsylvania.
Allegany Museum	3 Pershing Street, Cumberland, MD 21502	Maryland	The museum provides exhibits on a wide range of regional topics including French and Indian War history in the area.	Fort Cumberland and French and Indian War history.
Fort Edwards at Capon Bridge	350 Cold Stream Road, Capon Bridge, WV 26711	West Virginia	The Fort is located in an area in which Washington surveyed in the 1740s for Lord Fairfax and was manned by Washington's Virginia regiment. The battle at Fort Edwards in 1756 was the largest to have occurred in West Virginia in the French and Indian War. The site has remained virtually undisturbed for 250 years. Exhibits are available in the visitors center on the property. (Excerpts from website.)	French and Indian War, colonial settlement on the frontier, and the surveying of George Washington.



Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Governor's Palace, Colonial Williamsburg	300 Palace Green Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185	Virginia	The Governor's "Palace" was built between 1706 and 1722 with public funds and was considered a "tastemaker" in Virginia for its influence on other prominent architecture of that time and region. Governor Robert Dinwiddie lived in the original house. The house open to visitors today is a faithful reproduction dating from 1934 due to a fire that destroyed the house in 1781. (From Colonial Williamsburg Foundation website.)	Colonial government including during the time of Governor Dinwiddie who sent Washington to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753.
Carlyle House Historic Park	121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	Virginia	Completed in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir. British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. Braddock summoned five colonial governors to meet there to plan the early campaigns of the French and Indian War. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. (Description from VA tourism website.)	Colonial architecture built the year the year of Washington's journey. Colonial Virginia social and political life

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens	3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt Vernon, VA 22121	Virginia	Home to George Washington between 1759 and 1799, the 21-room Georgian mansion sits on a bluff overlooking the Potomac. Two new visitors facilities a quarter mile from the house contain 25 galleries and theaters. The four-acre Pioneer Farm Site is a re-created working farm with the original 16-sided treading barn and brewery.	Family and professional life of George Washington and political leaders during transitional time of French and Indian War and pre-, during, and post-American revolutionary time period northern Virginia coastal region.
Frontier Culture Museum	1290 Richmond Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401 (although off the trail it is close enough to provide valuable interpretation for the visitor)	Virginia	Six working farms dating from the late 1600s, including a farm from the 1740s, are spread across this 296-acre, living history museum. Visitors can observe or assist costumed interpreters as they cook, garden, and work in the fields.	Colonial European and Indian farm and frontier life and westward migration into the Ohio Valley.
Historic Town of Washington, VA (nicknamed "Little Washington")	Washington, VA 22747 (although off the trail it is close enough to provide valuable interpretation for the visitor)	Virginia	The site of this town was surveyed by George Washington in 1749 and retains the original layout and five block by two block grid. It was the first American place to be named after him. The town is now home to a five-star restaurant and inn. The entire town is on the National Register of Historic Places.	Washington and mid-18th century surveying history and town planning.

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
The Powder Magazine at Historic Williamsburg	103 E. Duke of Gloucester St. Williamsburg, VA 23185	Virginia	Built in 1715, a Guardhouse and high perimeter wall were added due to the increase in munitions at the site during the French and Indian War. The efforts of a local woman to save the building the late 19th century led to the formation of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, one of the oldest historic preservation organizations in the country.	Military and historic preservation history.
Rising Sun Tavern	1304 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401	Virginia	Built by Charles Washington (George's younger brother) around 1760 as his home, this frame building became a tavern in 1792, operating in the bustling town of Fredericksburg. The Tap Room features a reconstructed bar cage and fine collection of 18th- and 19th-century English and American pewter. No longer serving food & drink, the staff provide visitors with a lively interpretation of 18th-century tavern life. The tavern is filled with period furnishings and stories of early life in Fredericksburg. (Excerpt from website.)	Mid-18th century tavern life and history.

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Sycamore Tavern	17193 Mountain Road, Montpelier, VA 23192 (although off the trail it is close enough to provide valuable interpretation for interested visitors)	Virginia	Sycamore Tavern (c.1732) was the fourth stagecoach stop on the Richmond-Charlottesville Road. The tavern hosted travelers throughout the 19th century. The well preserved building houses the Page Memorial Library of History and Genealogy. (Excerpt from the Virginia state tourism website.)	Early/mid-18th century tavern history and vernacular architecture of the region.
George Washington Birthplace National Monument	1732 Popes Creek Road, Colonial Beach, VA 22443	Virginia	Born here in 1732, the site was the location of a colonial plantation owned by George Washington's great-great grandfather. Visitors today can see the Colonial Living Farm and the Washington Family Burial Ground.	Ancestral history of and influences on George Washington. Colonial plantation living and land ownership.
George Washington's Ferry Farm	268 Kings Hwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22405	Virginia	Visit the site of Washington's boyhood home, where he moved when he was six and remained until he was nearly 20, and the archeological lab on the property. Discover the history of an area where Washington visited in 1753 on his travel to Fort LeBoeuf. Also in Fredericksburg is Kenmore Plantation, built by George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis.	Colonial, including ferry, transportation, Washington's boyhood years, vernacular colonial farm architecture

Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
The Weems-Botts House/Museum	3944 Cameron Street, Dumfries, VA 22026	Virginia	Built in 1749, the site is on the National Register of Historic Places. Located on George Washington's likely route from Fredericksburg to Alexandria in 1753. Mason Weems is George Washington's first biographer and creator of the cherry tree myth, among others. Dumfries is the oldest chartered town in Virginia.	Vernacular architecture ca. 1753 in the region of his fall journey of that year. George Washington myths as a "larger-than-life" historical figure.
Abram's Delight Museum	1340 South Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester, VA 22601	Virginia	Winchester's oldest home, built in 1754, the house was the home of Isaac Hollingsworth the son of the property owner Abraham Hollingsworth. It served as Winchester's first Quaker Meeting House. Also on the site is a log cabin representative of the more common pioneer vernacular architecture.	Colonial frontier architecture ca. 1753, The history of Quakers in the region and their role in colonial history in Virginia and Pennsylvania and their influence in Washington's 1753 journey. Indian and European relations in the region.



Site/Event Name	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available	Location – State	Site/Event Description	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes)
Gadsby's Tavern, Alexandria	134 N Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	Virginia	Gadsby's Tavern today consists of two buildings, the ca. 1785 tavern and the 1792 City Hotel. The tavern is on the site of Mason's Ordinary, a tavern business begun between 1749 and 1752. Gadsby's Tavern is known to have served George Washington, but it is unclear whether he stayed and/or ate at Mason's Ordinary in 1753 when he traveled through Alexandria. The city of Alexandria's website, however, describes Gadsby's Tavern as the "center of political, business, and social life in early Alexandria." Visitors today can dine in colonial rooms and choose from a variety of early American menu options, including Washington's favorite, glazed duckling. Exhibits are available inside the two adjacent buildings.	Late-18th century tavern life and history in Alexandria. Colonial tavern architecture.

Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)	Location – State (Commemorative Sites)	Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)
Studio and work of artist Robert Griffing	Private residence and studio, Gibsonia, PA open during special events, various sites displaying meticulously accurate original and reproduction art work, selected events incorporating presentations by the artist.	Pennsylvania	Robert Griffing describes himself as a painter of the Woodland Indians and focuses on a time that marked the beginning of years of chaos and uncertainty for the Woodland tribes as they struggled to survive the encroachment of Europeans in the 18th century. His paintings are preceded by extensive research to ensure the accuracy of the subject matter, including work relevant to the French and Indian War and Washington's 1753 Expedition. Originals and reproductions of his work can be seen in many regional museums and sites.	Indian and European portraits and Ohio Country/Western PA landscape scenes of the mid-18th century.
Work of artist John Buxton	Various sites displaying meticulously accurate original and reproduction art work, selected events incorporating presentations by the artist.	Pennsylvania	John Buxton's website identifies him as "Painter of our Heritage." His interest is the 18th century and his work often focuses on scenes of frontier Pennsylvania. Through extensive research he recreates historic events and settings of everyday life.	Indian and European portraits and Ohio Country/Western PA landscape scenes of the mid-18th century including "Washington's Crossing" depicting Washington and Gist on a raft in the Allegheny on their return journey from Fort LeBoeuf in 1753.

Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)	Location – State (Commemorative Sites)	Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)
Mural by Deac Mong	Courtroom #1, Venango County Court House, 1168 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA 16323	Pennsylvania	Artist's interpretation of scene depicting Washington on 1753 expedition. Large mural is displayed behind judge in courtroom with limited public viewing.	Washington's 1753 journey to Fort LeBoeuf
Statue of George Washington in George Washington Memorial Park	In park adjacent to historic Eagle Hotel, 32 High Street, Waterford, PA 16441	Pennsylvania	Statue erected by the citizens of Waterford, PA in 1922 and commemorating George Washington's visit in 1753. This is the only statue of George Washington wearing a British uniform in Pennsylvania.	Recognizes George Washington's role in the expedition to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753.
"Point of View" Statue	Point of View Park, Grandview Ave. at Sweetbriar Street, Pittsburgh, PA	Pennsylvania	Bronze sculpture by James West installed in 2006 on Mount Washington overlooking the Point State Park in Pittsburgh, the "forks of the Ohio River" depicts a meeting between George Washington and Seneca leader Gwaysuta in 1777.	Indian and colonial relations in the Ohio Country/Western PA. Washington first met Gwaysuta on his 1753 journey to Fort LeBoeuf.

Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)	Location – State (Commemorative Sites)	Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)
<b>Events</b>				
Upper French Creek Water Trail and French Creek Summer Solstice Sojourn: June 18-19, 2016	Selected creek towns that are a part of the French Creek Watershed Conservancy, address is 301 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA 16335	Pennsylvania	Natural and cultural resource education intersects in the French Creek Watershed's activities including its annual sojourn. The Watershed's website describes the French Creek as a "Colonial Stream" for its exceptional biodiversity and water quality largely unchanged since the Colonial era.	Natural resource protection and colonial history. Annual paddling sojourn and Conservancy website interpret Washington's visit to the area and creek in 1753.
Ohio Country Conference	Westmoreland County Community College (145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697) and Bushy Run Battlefield (1253 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644)	Pennsylvania	Presented by the Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society, Westmoreland County Community College, and the U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center. The 19th annual took place in April, 2016 and covered an array of topics related to the French and Indian War in Western, PA. David Preston spoke about Braddock's Defeat and Major Jason W. Warren presented "The Reconfiguration of the Backcountry: The Colonial Wars and the Shaping of the American Frontier" in 2016.	The French and Indian War and settlement in the Western PA frontier and the Ohio Country.

Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)	Location – State (Commemorative Sites)	Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)
French and Indian War Weekend	The Old Stone House, 2865 William Flynn Highway, Slippery Rock, PA 16057	Pennsylvania	Although the house was not present during Washington's time (as it was built in 1822), it is located along the Venango Trail, an Indian Path on which Washington traveled in 1753 to Fort LeBoeuf. The Weekend includes a living history encampment, military demonstrations, and battle re-enactments.	The French and Indian War in Western, PA and the Venango Trail.
Selected events at which the Compagnie LeBoeuf participated	Various French and Indian War events and sites in Western, PA	Pennsylvania	The Compagnie LeBoeuf shares the story of the French in mid-18th century Ohio Country through participation in events also noted separately here (such as Fort Ligonier Days and the Old Stone House French and Indian War Re-enactment Weekend) as well as related events outside of the survey area including French Heritage Day at Old Fort Niagara In Youngstown, NY, and Fort Henry Days in Wheeling, WV.	The history of the French in the Ohio Country during the time of the French and Indian War.
(Cook Forest) French and Indian War Encampment (June 11-12, 2016)	Cook Forest State Park, 113 River Road, Cooksburg, PA 16217	Pennsylvania	Sponsored by the Sawmill Center for the Arts, this two-day event in 2016 included, among other things, a variety of cooking, craft, and military demonstrations and presentations.	The French and Indian War in Western, PA.



Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)	Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)	Location – State (Commemorative Sites)	Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)	Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)
French Creek Heritage Event (second annual in July 23-24, 2016)	Cochranton Fairgrounds, 115 West Adams Street, Cochranton, PA 16314 (Sponsored by the Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort in partnership with the French Creek Valley Conservancy's "Creek Town Program")	Pennsylvania	Entitled "1750 - A Gathering Storm in the French Creek Valley," this two-day event along the banks of French Creek included re-enactments, exhibitions, displays, first person portrayals, and presentations about the region during the general time that Washington traveled through the region on his way to Fort LeBoeuf. The 2016 event included displays of historical artists Robert Griffing and John Buxton and presentations by David L. Preston and Brady J. Cryzter among others.	The French Creek area during Washington's visit in 1753.
Braddock Road Preservation Association (BRPA) Annual Seminar, November 4-5, 2016	887 Jumonville Road, Hopwood, PA 15445 (a private retreat facility)	Pennsylvania	Held every year on the first Friday and Saturday of November, the BRPA website describes the Annual Seminar as including presentations, displays of antiquarian books and prints, and exhibits of period artifacts. A bus tour led by noted historians was also part of the 2016 event. The event has been held for over 25 years.	The history of Braddock's Road and the events taking place along the route during the time of the French and Indian War. The route is the same that Washington took in 1753 in many places as Washington's route often became Braddock's Road.

<b>Site/Event Name (Commemorative Sites)</b>	<b>Location – Site and Contact Address or Latitude and Longitude, if available (Commemorative Sites)</b>	<b>Location – State (Commemorative Sites)</b>	<b>Site/Event Description (Commemorative Sites)</b>	<b>Primary Site Theme(s) (and related survey themes) (Commemorative Sites)</b>
George Washington and Cherry Pie Hikes (Old Stone House and North Country Trail)	Slippery Rock, PA	Pennsylvania	Commemorating George Washington's birthday and the 1753 Expedition. Takes place every year in February.	Washington's 1753 journey to Fort LeBoeuf

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS/NERO/962/151799 AUGUST 2019

# RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY THE WASHINGTON TRAIL – 1753

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National Park Service  
Park Planning and Special Studies  
Northeast Region  
August 2019

